PARADISE KISS

1

Ai Yazawa

TOKYOPOP

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Volume 1

Ai Yazawa

TOKYOPOP®

LOS ANGELES • TOKYO

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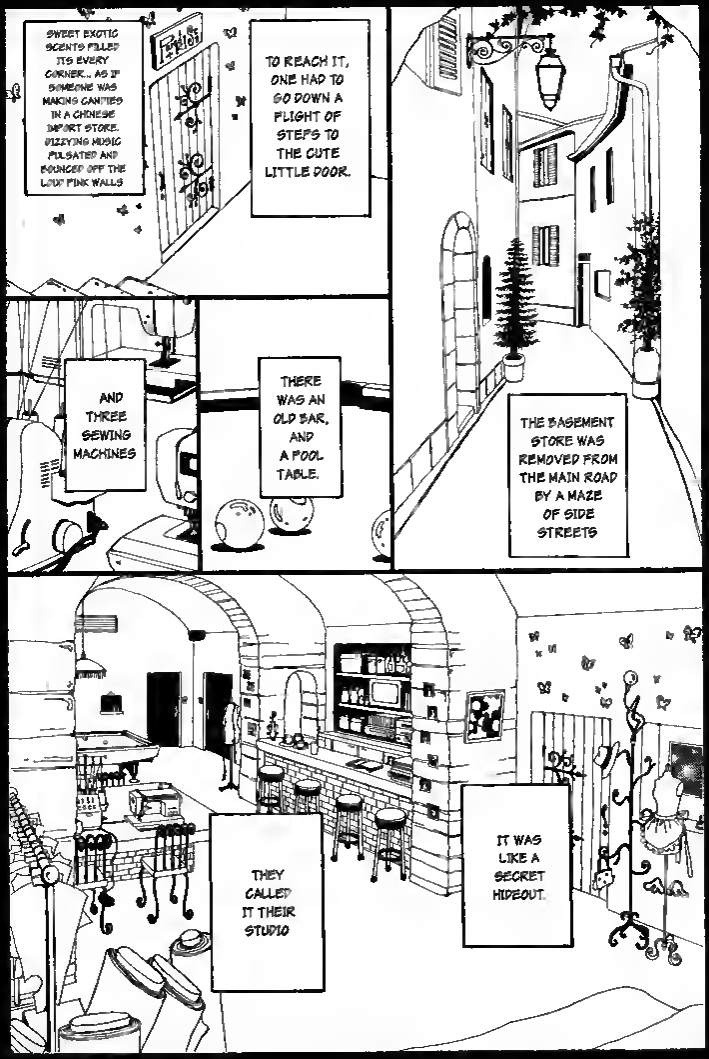
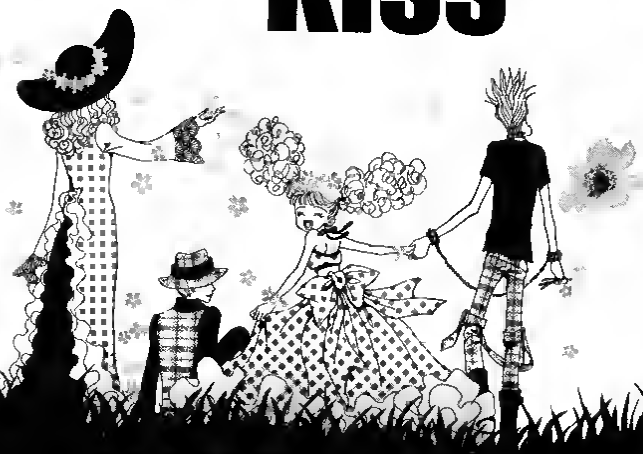

SWEET EXOTIC SCENTS FILLED ITS EVERY CORNER... AS IF SOMEONE WAS MAKING CANDIES IN A CHINESE IMPORT STORE. DIZZYING MUSIC PULSATED AND BOUNCED OFF THE LOUD PINK WALLS
TO REACH IT, ONE HAD TO GO DOWN A FLIGHT OF STEPS TO THE CUTE LITTLE DOOR.
THE BASEMENT STORE WAS REMOVED FROM THE MAIN ROAD BY A MAZE OF SIDE STREETS
AND THREE SEWING MACHINES
THERE WAS AN OLD BAR, AND A POOL TABLE.
IT WAS LIKE A SECRET HIDEOUT.
THEY CALLED IT THEIR STUDIO

Paradise Kiss

パラダイス・キス

STAGE 1



AI YAZAWA

GOD, I HATE THE CITY
I MEAN, DON'T THESE PEOPLE WORK? WHAT THE HELL? IT'S NOT EVEN THE WEEKEND!
IT MAKES ME SICK, THE WAY THESE PEOPLE SCURRY THROUGH THE STREETS LIKE ROACHES.

イラ イラ イラ
OUT OF MY WAY! LET ME THROUGH!
OH.
HEY...
ドン
HEY, YOU!
GIRL WITH THE LONG HAIR!
WHAT THE HELL?! LET GO OF ME, YOU PERV!
C'MERE. LET ME GET A LOOK AT YA.

WHAT'S WITH THIS GUY?
UH. WHY IS THERE A SAFETY PIN IN HIS LIP?
YOU'RE TALL.
OVER 6'5", RIGHT?
BLIMEY!
YOU'RE ACE, KID!
I..
YEAH, SURE, WHATEVER YOU SAY... GOTTA GO!
HEY!
AH!
DASH
AAAAGH! I'M GONNA BE ROBBED! POSSIBLY RAPED! MOST LIKELY MURDERED!
HOLD IT!

WHAT THE?!
NICE VEIL.
IT ALMOST HIDES THE FACT SHE'S A MAN!
HEY!
ISABELLA!
HOW TALL!
Weird
A transvestite
CATCH THAT GIRL!
OH!
EXCUSE.
WHY IS "SHE" LOOKING AT ME LIKE THAT?
WHO ARE THESE PEOPLE?!
ACK! I'M GOING TO BE KILLED BY A GIANT DRAG QUEEN!
IS THIS.
OH, NO

NEVER GOT INTO ANY TROUBLE... I'VE ALWAYS WORKED HARD.

FOR THE LAST 10 YEARS, I'VE STUCK TO THE RULES.

LORD... WHAT DID I DO TO DESERVE THIS?

way to go Isabella!

GOT YOU!

...THE ANGEL OF DEATH?

I CAN SMELL INCENSE. IS THIS WHAT DEATH IS LIKE?

WHAT A SHORT AND MEANINGLESS LIFE.

NOT THAT I HAD ANY IDEA HOW TO LIVE LIFE TO THE FULLEST.

IF I HAD KNOWN, I WOULDN'T HAVE SPENT ALL MY TIME STUDYING I WOULD HAVE LIVED LIFE TO THE FULLEST

I'VE LIVED SUCH A BORING LIFE.
I CAN SEE AN ANGEL.
OH!
WITH PINK HAIR.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
Wrong Place! I'm in Hell!

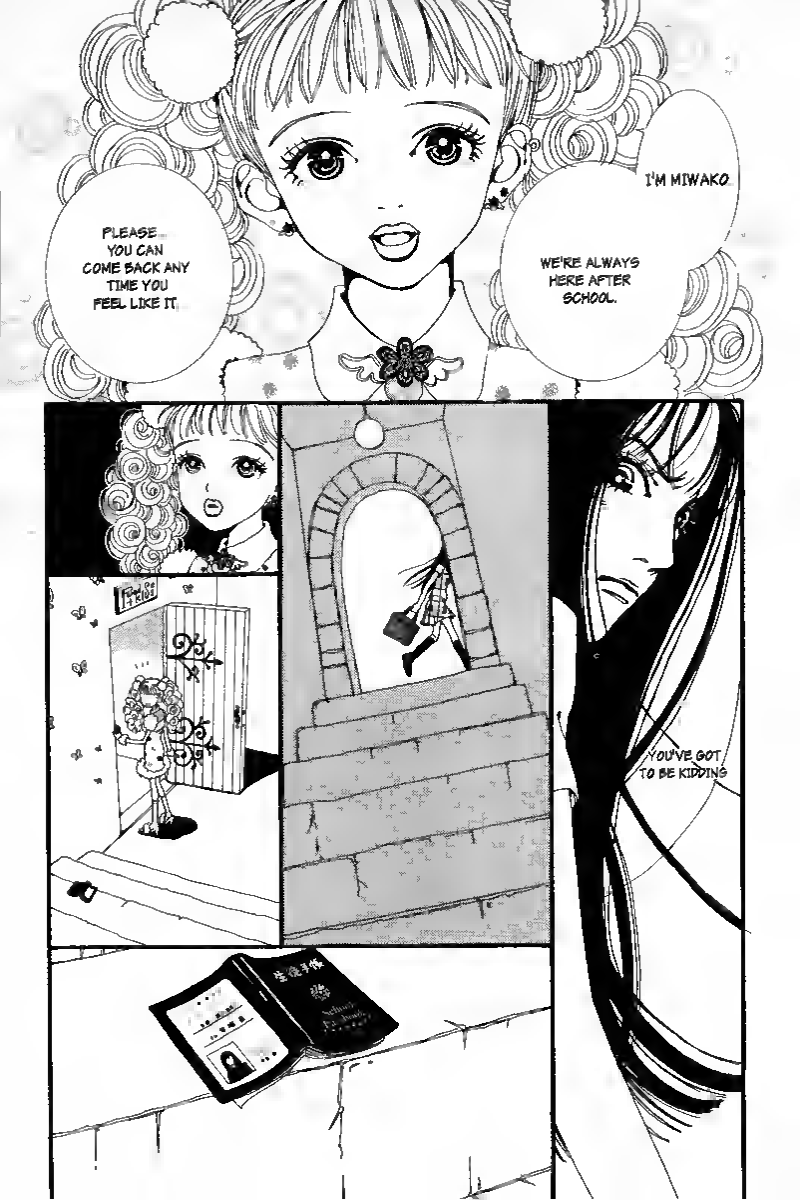
LET ME GET THIS STRAIGHT. YOU WANT ME TO BE A MODEL!
IN YOUR FASHION SHOW!
NO WONDER THEY'RE ALL FREAKS
YAZA ARTS
YEAH.
HAVE YOU HEARD OF YAZAWA SCHOOL FOR THE ARTS?
FOR ENROLLING NOTHING BUT NUTBAGS.
OUR SCHOOL IS FAMOUS!
COURSE SHE DOES.
YOU KNOW IT? HOW FABULOUS!
WE'RE SENIORS IN THE FASHION DESIGN CLASS.
YOU HAVE GREAT STYLE. YOU'RE PERFECT FOR OUR IMAGE A TOTAL WAIF
WE'VE BEEN LOOKIN' FOR SOMEONE TO WALK THE RUNWAY FOR US AT THE FESTIVAL SHOW.
THE THING IS, EVERY NOVEMBER WE HAVE A SCHOOL FESTIVAL.

LOOK. I'VE GOT TO GET OUT OF HERE BEFORE I'M LATE FOR CLASS
I'M SUPPOSED TO BE STUDYING TO GET INTO COLLEGE. I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THAT KIND OF THING
THEN WE'RE THE SAME AGE.
OH, YOU'RE A SENIOR, TOO?
YOU MUST BE SMART! WHERE ARE YOU APPLYING?
THAT'S SEIJI ACADEMY'S UNIFORM, ISN'T IT?
YAY!
HUH?
THEN YOU'LL DO IT?
SO, THAT'S IT
YOU SHOULD HAVE JUST SAID SO. WASTE OF ENERGY
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS
WHAT IS THIS, AN INTERROGATION?
IT'S NONE OF YOUR BUSINESS, JUST LEAVE ME ALONE!
Blush
AND
IN ANY CASE.

I HAVE A LOT ON MY MIND RIGHT NOW.
UNLIKE SOME PEOPLE, I LIVE IN THE REAL WORLD AND DON'T HAVE TIME FOR YOUR STUPID GAMES!
HEY! HOLD ON A MINUTE!
ARASHI.

YOU THINK WE'RE MAKING THESE THREADS 'CUZ WE CAN'T CUT IT IN YOUR LITTLE BOOK WORLD? EH, PRINCESS?!
ARASHI...
YOU THINK YOUR SHIT DON'T STINK? YOU THINK GOING TO COLLEGE MAKES YOU BETTER 'AN US? SOD OFF!
LOOK, PRINCESS WE WERE ASKING YOU NICELY YOU CAN BUGGER OFF IF YA DON'T WANNA SHOW US THE SAME RESPECT
WHAT?
I'M SORRY!
PLEASE DON'T MIND HIM.
I'M SORRY WE KEPT YOU FROM YOUR STUDIES
STOP IT, ARASHI!
I DIDN'T MEAN...
WELL, YOU CAN TAKE YOUR APOLOGIES AND SHOVE 'EM UP YOUR ARSE!
CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS KID? JUDGIN' US LIKE THAT?

SHP
WHAT'S WITH THESE PEOPLE!
I DIDN'T GET YOUR NAME.
EXCUSE ME.
UM...
AND HE CALLED ME INSULTING!
UM..
WAIT.
AH..
CAROLINE?
I'M SORRY, CAROLINE!


I'M MIWAKO.
PLEASE... YOU CAN COME BACK ANY TIME YOU FEEL LIKE IT.
WE'RE ALWAYS HERE AFTER SCHOOL.
YOU'VE GOT TO BE KIDDING

身分証明書
Student Identification
第3学年 A 組 35番
Year 3 Class A Number 35
氏名 早坂 紫
Name Yukari Hayasaka
1 April Heisei XX
私立清美学園
Seki Private Academy
Principal
Shigeru Matsu
NOT BAD
EEK
GEORGE YOU SURPRISED ME.
I thought you were a ghost
WELCOME BACK, GEORGIE BOY
HOW WAS THE FABRIC STORE?
'AY
NOT SO GOOD
WE'LL HAVE TO GO TO NIPPORI ON SUNDAY
BUT WHO IS THIS YUKARI? I WONDER IF SHE'D MODEL FOR US?
THAT BITCHY LOOK OF HERS IS PERFECT FOR OUR IMAGE.
IS HER NAME YUKARI?
OH!
I just called her Caroline

NEVER TRUST A BOY TO DO MAN'S WORK.
I SHOULD HAVE KNOWN YOU'D SCREW THINGS UP, ARASHI.
AND SHE GOT AWAY
SO ARASHI YELLED AT HER
I SEE.
BITE ME, I HAVE BAND PRACTICE!
JOHJI!
DON'T STICK THAT THING IN MY BUM, YOU POOF!
DON'T SAY MY NAME IN KANJI!
BOLLOCKS! IT SOUNDS THE SAME EITHER WAY YOU NANCY BOY!
"STYLE MATTERS EVEN WHEN IT COMES TO MURDER."
THAT'S WHAT BRIAN SLADE SAID!
Who the heck is that?
George is under the influence of yet another movie

ROCKET PUNCH!

LET GO OF MIWAKO, YOU PERVERT!

SHOT!

WHAT SHOULD WE DO ABOUT THE MODEL FOR THE SHOW?

WE'RE RUNNING OUT OF TIME, WE NEED ONE SOON!

DO YOU WANT TO DO IT, MIWAKO?

BUT MIWAKO IS TOO SHORT

strawberry perfume!

YOU'RE SO CUTE.

I'D LIKE TO PUT YOU IN MY POCKET AND TAKE YOU HOME! ♡

George! You can't die in the first episode

LATER, MATES!

ARASHI!

WAIT!

WHAT SHOULD I DO ABOUT THIS?

CAROLINE'S STUDENT PASSBOOK.

IF SHE WANTS IT, SHE CAN COME BACK FOR IT HERSELF

I WONDER IF HER PHONE NUMBER'S IN HERE.

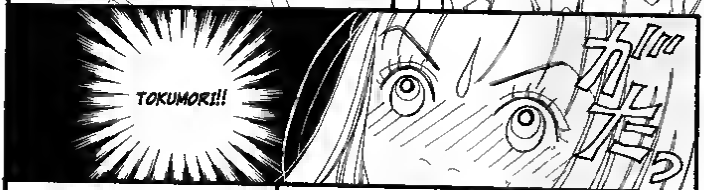
WOULD IT BE ALRIGHT TO LOOK?

キーン
コーン
カーン
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO?
WHERE DID I DROP MY STUDENT PASSBOOK?
NO, THE STUDENT PASSBOOK ISN'T THE PROBLEM.
I CAN GET ANOTHER ONE MADE.

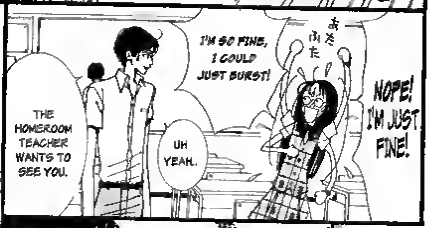
HAYASAKA!
GA!
ER!
GA!
I WOULD JUST DIE!

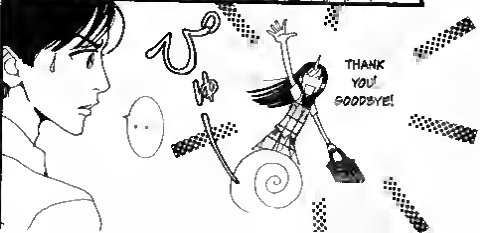
IS SOMETHING WRONG!
ARE YOU FEELING ALRIGHT?

BUT THAT PICTURE! I RISKED MY LIFE DURING THAT SCHOOL TRIP TO GET IT! IT'S THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY LIFE! I SHOULDN'T HAVE PUT IT IN THERE! IF SOMEONE AT SCHOOL SEES IT...


TOKUMORI!!
カシャ

Yo Hiro!
IS SHE STRESSING OUT OVER EXAMS?
TOO BAD SHE'S HOT


THE HOMEROOM TEACHER WANTS TO SEE YOU.
UH YEAH.
I'M SO FINE, I COULD JUST BURST!
あった
NOPE! I'M JUST FINE!


THANK YOU! GOODBYE!

I KNOW THAT YOU DON'T HAVE TO TELL ME.
HAYASAKA, YOUR LAST PRACTICE TEST SHOWS THAT YOUR SCORES DROPPED AGAIN.
YOU WON'T GET INTO YOUR FIRST CHOICE AT THIS RATE.
YOU HAVE TO PULL YOURSELF TOGETHER
I DON'T CARE IF I GET INTO MY FIRST CHOICE OR NOT.
I'LL TAKE ANY COLLEGE.
wobble wobble
I JUST WANT ALL THIS PRESSURE TO GO AWAY.
EVERYONE HERE THINKS YOUR RANK AS A PERSON DEPENDS ON THE RANK OF THE SCHOOL YOU GET INTO.
BUT IF IT'S NOT A GOOD SCHOOL, EVERYONE WILL LOOK DOWN ON ME
MS. YUKARI HAYASAKA?
YOU THINK GOING TO COLLEGE MAKES YOU BETTER 'AN US?
...WHO AREN'T LIKE THAT.
BUT THERE ARE SOME PEOPLE...

WHO'S THIS GUY?

YOU'RE AMAZING, JUST LIKE THEY SAID.

Ever since yesterday I keep seeing all these weird people

I THOUGHT SO

UM, YES. ?

AN ALIEN!

Why are both his hair and eyes blue?

ANGER IS BAD FOR YOUR COMPLEXION YOU KNOW.

WILL YOU FORGIVE THEM?

Please accept this token of apology

すいっ

I'M SORRY FOR MY FRIEND'S RUDENESS YESTERDAY

Shoooo

I forgive them! M'kay? See ya!

Birds of a feather.

THERE'S ANOTHER ONE OF THEM?!

LIKE A VIDEO GAME THE LAST ONE TO APPEAR IS ALWAYS THE BOSS CHARACTER!

BY THE WAY, DID YOU LOSE YOUR SCHOOL PASSBOOK?
+ place
Such a feather-brain
YOU DROPPED IT AT THE STUDIO YESTERDAY.
AH!
THE STUDIO?
YOU MEAN THAT BASEMENT ROOM?
I SEE, SO THAT'S WHY YOU. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
HEY! WHAT ABOUT MY STUDENT PASSBOOK?!
OH! DID YOU WANT IT?
IT'S MINE!
OF COURSE!
IF YOU WANT IT, THEN COME AND GET IT.

UNTIL THEN...

...HEADING TOWARD A LIGHT AT THE END...

...THROUGH A DARK TUNNEL...

Who want a ride?

Hold it, Bossie!

...I WAS JUST RUNNING WITH BLINDERS ON...

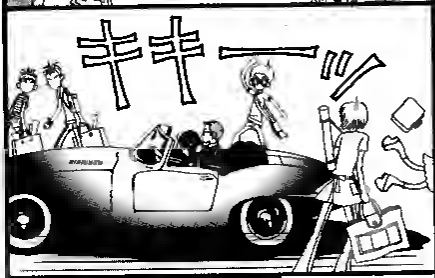
THAT'S WHAT TRULY SCARED ME.

...TO A VAST, EMPTY, AND LONELY SPACE.

BUT THAT LIGHT WAS ONLY A PORTAL...

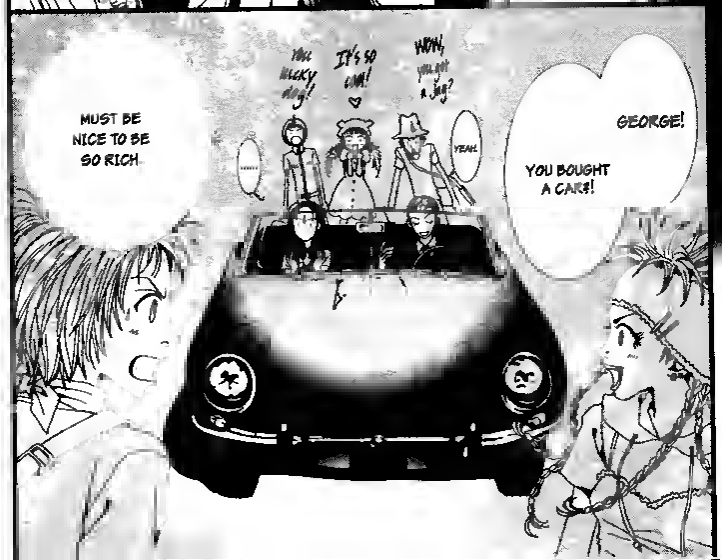
STAGE 2

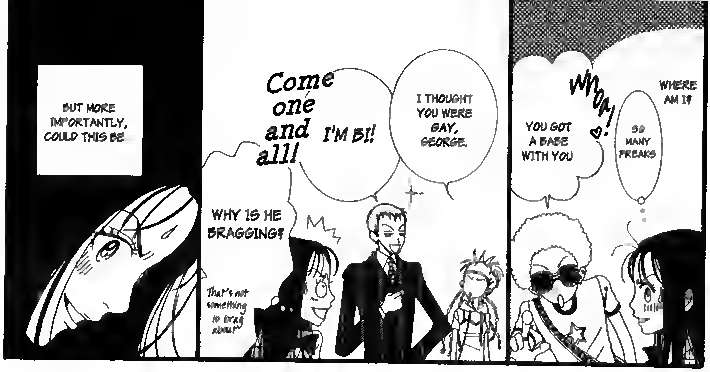
YOU MUST BE 18 TO HAVE A DRIVER'S LICENSE IN JAPAN



OH, MY GOD! HE'S GONNA RAPE ME!

I'm still a virgin. I don't want my first time to be with a guy like this




BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, COULD THIS BE
Come one and all!
I'M BI!
I THOUGHT YOU WERE GAY, GEORGE.
WHY IS HE BRAGGING?
That's not something to brag about!
WHOA!
YOU GOT A BASE WITH YOU
WHERE AM I?
SO MANY FREAKS

...YAZA ARTS?!
CAROLINE!
I DON'T KNOW!
HOW? WHY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, CAROLINE?
OH, MIWAKO
IS THAT TEACHER, KISARAGI STILL HERE?

SEIJI WAS HAVING LUNCH WITH HAMA ♡
YUP.
MR. KISARAGI.
OKAY, COME ON.
What the heck is going on? You can't bring an outsider onto school grounds!
AH KOIZUMI.
WE WERE TALKING ABOUT YOU.
hee hee!
ABOUT HOW COOL I AM?
THESE ARE TEACHERS?
HE LOOKS MORE LIKE A ROCK STAR THAN A TEACHER!
WE'VE KNOWN EACH OTHER FOR AGES.
LIAR!
SHE'S A PRETTY MY, GIRL!

STOP! NOOOO!

YOU KNOW I'D LOVE TO BE OF HELP TO YOU.

I WANTED TO ASK YOU A FAVOR.

SEIJI,

They look like they're lovers.

IS THAT HOW A STUDENT TALKS TO A TEACHER?

WHY? CAROLINE, SEIJI IS A HAIR AND MAKEUP ARTIST WHO'S FAMOUS OVERSEAS

What's more in our story, Seiji's from the Glitter Planet so he doesn't age. He's already an old man.

What's a Glitter Planet?

IT'S NOT EVERYDAY YOU GET TO HAVE YOUR HAIR CUT BY SOMEONE LIKE HIM.

THEN LET'S TOUCH THEM UP!

THOSE BANGS ARE AWFUL. in my opinion

BUT IT IS SOMEWHAT GAUCHE. FIRST OF ALL

YOU'VE GOT BEAUTIFUL EBONY HAIR. IT SUITS YOUR IMAGE

IT WOULD BE A SHAME TO CUT IT

SO WHAT?! WHY DO I HAVE TO GET MY HAIR CUT?!

WHY IS THIS HAPPENING TO ME?!

I DON'T HAVE TIME FOR THIS CRAP WHAT AM I DOING?

DON'T WORRY

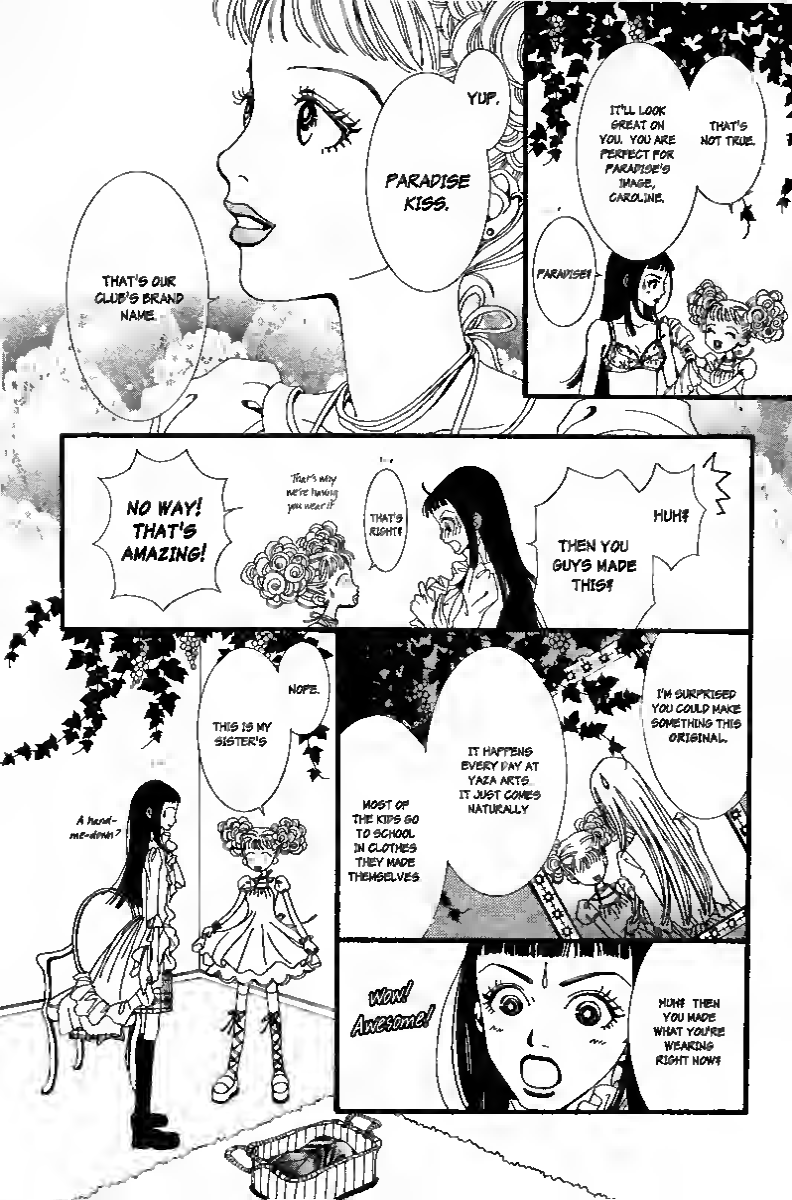
I'LL BE GENTLE WITH YOU.

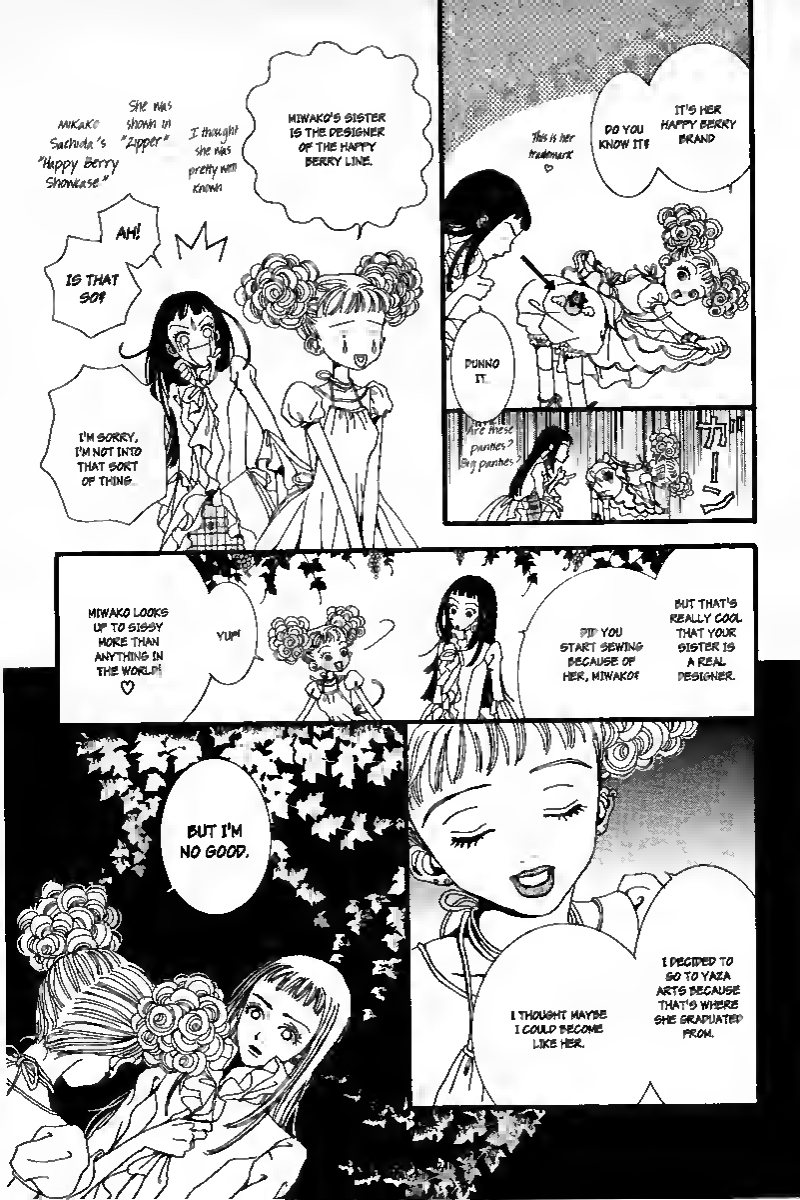
nosebleed

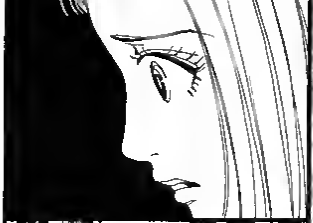
OH, MY
CAROLINE!
I NEVER WANT TO COME BACK HERE AGAIN
THESE BANGS ARE MAKING MY FOREHEAD ITCH.
WELL?
ISN'T SHE BEAUTIFUL? SEIJI DID IT FOR HER. ♡
And he gave her a make over too! ♡
YOU'D LOOK EVEN BETTER IF YOU WEREN'T IN YOUR UNIFORM.
YOU LOOK WONDERFUL, CARRIE.
IT'S YUKARI.
IS THIS PERSON A MAN OR A WOMAN?
I WISH THEY'D MAKE UP THEIR MIND
CHANGED YOUR MIND, EH?
AFTER WHAT YOU SAID YESTERDAY, I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER COME BACK HERE TO MODEL FOR US.
WHAT?! NO, I'M NOT!
You're not?
I SEE.
THEN YOU'RE JUST HERE TO WANK US OFF?!
WE'RE BUSY HERE.

I JUST..
...CAME FOR MY STUDENT PASSBOOK.
YOU HAD IT ALL ALONG..
Don't treat me like some object
STOP RUSHING ME...
I WANT TO TAKE MY TIME FALLING IN LOVE WITH YOU.
YOUR PASS? BUT GEORGE HAS IT.
WHA?!
MIWAKO PUT THIS ON YUKARI.
Damm it!
You tricked me!
IT'S YOUR FAULT FOR BEING SO EASILY DUPED
IS THAT SO?
THAT'S SO
I SEE.
Miwako don't take him seriously!
COME ON, CAROLINE.
THE RESTROOM'S THIS WAY. ♡
BUT I DON'T NEED TO USE IT...
FOR THE FITTING.
YOU DON'T WANT TO CHANGE IN FRONT OF ALL THE BOYS, DO YOU?
HUH?
FITTING...?

はっ
ALL THE BOYS!
HEH
THIS USED TO BE A BAR THAT GEORGE'S UNCLE OWNED...
BUT THEY HAD TO CLOSE SIX MONTHS AGO
WHAT A BIG RESTROOM.
ISN'T IT WONDERFUL?
THE FOUR OF US RENOVATED IT AND MADE IT INTO OUR STUDIO! ♡
OH!
THEN PUT THIS ON WHEN YOU GET THAT OFF
I'LL DO IT MYSELF!
WHAT A CUTE BRA! ♡
ぴらぴら
I CAN'T WEAR THIS...
DON'T YOU LIKE IT?
A FLASHY OUTFIT LIKE THIS WOULDN'T LOOK GOOD ON ME.

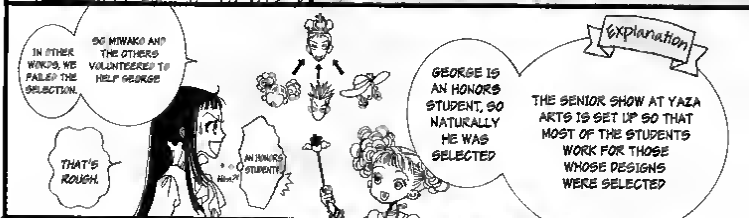

YUP.
PARADISE KISS.
THAT'S OUR CLUB'S BRAND NAME.
IT'LL LOOK GREAT ON YOU. YOU ARE PERFECT FOR PARADISE'S IMAGE, CAROLINE.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
PARADISE!
NO WAY! THAT'S AMAZING!
That's why we're having you wear it!
THAT'S RIGHT!
HUH?
THEN YOU GUYS MADE THIS?
NOPE.
THIS IS MY SISTER'S
A hand-me-down?
MOST OF THE KIDS GO TO SCHOOL IN CLOTHES THEY MADE THEMSELVES
IT HAPPENS EVERY DAY AT YAZA ARTS. IT JUST COMES NATURALLY
I'M SURPRISED YOU COULD MAKE SOMETHING THIS ORIGINAL.
Wow! Awesome!
HUH? THEN YOU MADE WHAT YOU'RE WEARING RIGHT NOW?


IT'S HER HAPPY BERRY BRAND
DO YOU KNOW IT?
This is her trademark ♡
DUNNO IT.
Are these panties? Big panties?
MIWAKO'S SISTER IS THE DESIGNER OF THE HAPPY BERRY LINE.
I thought she was pretty well known
She was shown in "Zipper"
MIKAKO Sachida's "Happy Berry Showcase"
AH!
IS THAT SO?
I'M SORRY, I'M NOT INTO THAT SORT OF THING.
BUT THAT'S REALLY COOL THAT YOUR SISTER IS A REAL DESIGNER.
DID YOU START SEWING BECAUSE OF HER, MIWAKO?
YUP!
MIWAKO LOOKS UP TO SISSY MORE THAN ANYTHING IN THE WORLD! ♡
I DECIDED TO GO TO YAZA ARTS BECAUSE THAT'S WHERE SHE GRADUATED FROM.
I THOUGHT MAYBE I COULD BECOME LIKE HER.
BUT I'M NO GOOD.



THEN ISABELLA, WHO WANTS TO BE A PATTERN DESIGNER, MAKES IT INTO A PATTERN, AND ARASHI AND I SEW IT UP.
GEORGE CREATES THE DESIGNS FOR PARADISE
BUT THESE ARE ORIGINAL, AREN'T THEY?
THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL.

I LIKE TO MAKE CLOTHES, BUT I'M NOT MEANT TO BE A DESIGNER.
NO MATTER HOW HARD I TRY, I ALWAYS END UP IMITATING BIBBY'S STYLE
I JUST DON'T HAVE ANY ORIGINALITY.


IN OTHER WORDS, WE FAILED THE SELECTION.
SO MIWAKO AND THE OTHERS VOLUNTEERED TO HELP GEORGE
THAT'S ROUGH.
AN HONORS STUDENT?
GEORGE IS AN HONORS STUDENT, SO NATURALLY HE WAS SELECTED
Explanation
THE SENIOR SHOW AT YAZA ARTS IS SET UP SO THAT MOST OF THE STUDENTS WORK FOR THOSE WHOSE DESIGNS WERE SELECTED

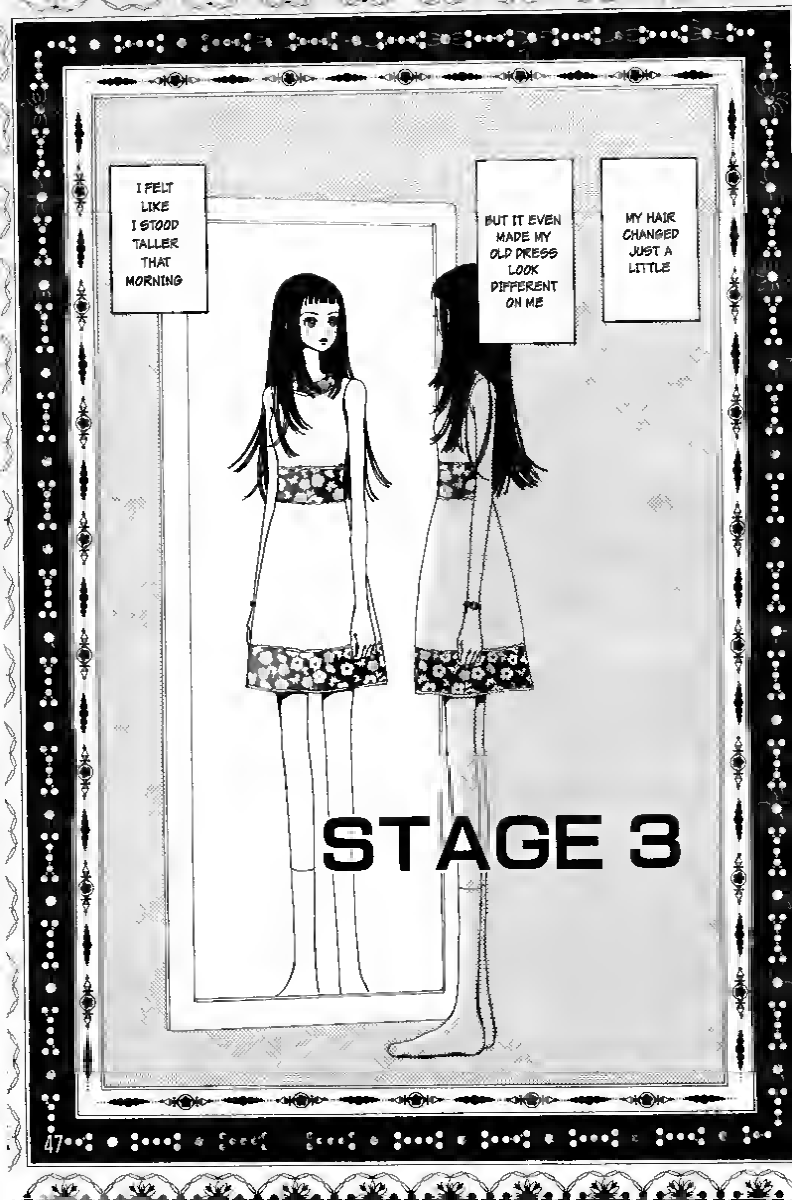
SO, WE STARTED MAKING PARADISE CLOTHES HERE AFTER SCHOOL EVERY DAY.
WE CAN ONLY SHOW ONE OUTFIT THERE. THAT SEEMED TOO LITTLE.
THE FOUR OF US HAVE BANDED TOGETHER FOR THE SCHOOL SHOW, BUT...

ONCE WE GET A LOT OF THEM MADE. WE'RE GOING TO TRY AND SELL THEM TO A BOUTIQUE
I KNOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO!
WE'RE NOT RUNNING THESE MACHINES JUST FOR FUN
DADADA DAA!
SORRY TO KEEP YOU WAITING..

YOU LOOK GOOD!
BLIMEY!
I'M SO SORRY!
I... I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND ANYTHING...
I SAID SOME AWFUL THINGS YESTERDAY...
I'M REALLY SORRY...
...
ER... WELL...

THAT'S RIGHT, YOU CAME FOR YOUR STUDENT PASSBOOK.
YOU JUST HAD SOME, ARASHI.
DOES ANYONE WANT SOME CURRY?
OKAY ♡ NOW WE'VE ALL MADE UP.
Yeah! ♡
YOU SAID SOME NASTY THINGS TOO, ARASHI. APOLOGIZE.
はははは
AS LONG AS YOU UNDERSTAND!
SOZ...
HUH?
I WON'T HAVE ANY REASON TO COME BACK
IF I TAKE THIS...
THAT'S RIGHT, BUT...
YOU DON'T NEED IT!
YES, I DO!
I THOUGHT I WOULD BE RELIEVED
WE'LL WAIT THREE DAYS FOR YOUR ANSWER.

YUKARI HAYASAKA...
WILL YOU BE THE MODEL...
...FOR OUR FASHION SHOW?
BUT MY HEART WAS POUNDING SO HARD, I COULD BARELY WALK
I COULD'VE GOTTEN THERE ON TIME IF I'D RAN.
I WAS LATE FOR MY PREP SCHOOL THAT DAY.


I FELT LIKE I STOOD TALLER THAT MORNING
BUT IT EVEN MADE MY OLD DRESS LOOK DIFFERENT ON ME
MY HAIR CHANGED JUST A LITTLE
STAGE 3

WHAT? CLOSED?

YUP.

WHEN I TOLD SISSY THAT WE WERE GOING TO NIPPORI TO LOOK AT FABRICS THIS MORNING...

SHE SAID THAT SINCE NIPPORI IS IN A WAREHOUSE DISTRICT THEY WOULD BE CLOSED ON SUNDAY.

THAT'S A PROBLEM THIS MONTH'S EPISODE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE "THE PARADISE MEMBERS GO TO NIPPORI."

SINCE WE'RE ALL UP EARLY,

DO YOU WANT TO MAKE IT "PARADISE GOES ON A PICNIC"?

THAT SOUNDS NICE

I'LL MAKE SOME RICE BALLS

THAT'S SO GAY!

I'M NOT GOING ON NO BLOODY PICNIC!

WE DON'T NEED TO GO
THAS RIGHT, WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE WANKIN' OFF
HUH? BUT CAROLINE.
LET'S AT LEAST WAIT FOR HER ANSWER.
DO YOU REALLY THINK SHE'LL DO IT?
WHAT SHOULD WE DO, GEORGE? DO YOU WANT TO GO SOMEPLACE ELSE?
WE NEED TO FIND SOME FABRIC FOR THE SHOW'S DRESSES SOON
NAH. IT'D BE BETTER TO FIND THE FABRIC AFTER WE FIND A MODEL.
SOMETIMES SUBTLE DIFFERENCES MAKE A FABRIC LOOK GOOD OR BAD ON A MODEL.
BLOODY WASTE A' TIME, I SAY
I SEE.
THAT'S RIGHT
WE HAVE TO FIND A MODEL, THEN
SHOULD I GO LOOKING OUT ON THE TOWN?
GEORGE.
IS THIS COLOR ALRIGHT FOR THE FASTENER?
HUH? GEORGE?

GEORGE ISN'T THE TYPE TO WAIT PATIENTLY FOR THREE DAYS
HE HASN'T GONE TO LOOK FOR ANOTHER MODEL, HAS HE?
Fine, I'll justuse this
SOMEONE OUGHTTA PUT A LEASH ON HIS SMELLY ASS
FREAK!
I WONDER.
DO YOU THINK HE'S GIVING UP ON CAROLINE?
CITY LIBRARY
YUKARI HAYASAKA,
WILL YOU BE THE MODEL
FOR OUR FASHION SHOW?

I KNOW I CAN'T BE TAKING ON THAT SORT OF PROJECT AT THIS TIME.

I KNOW IN MY HEAD.

BUT, WHY IS MY HEART SO EXCITED ABOUT IT?

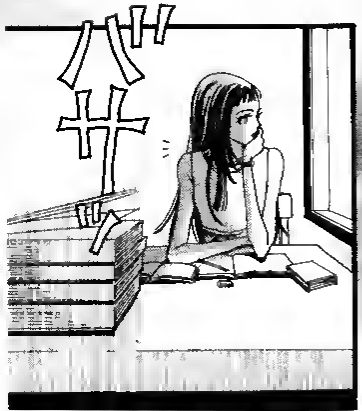
WE'LL WAIT THREE DAYS FOR YOUR ANSWER.

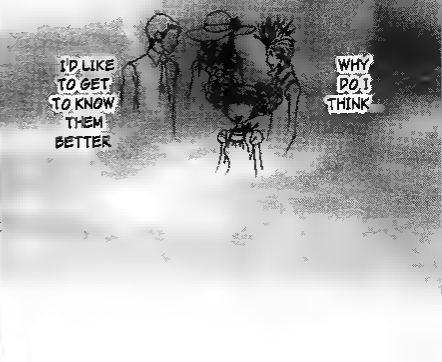
WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING.

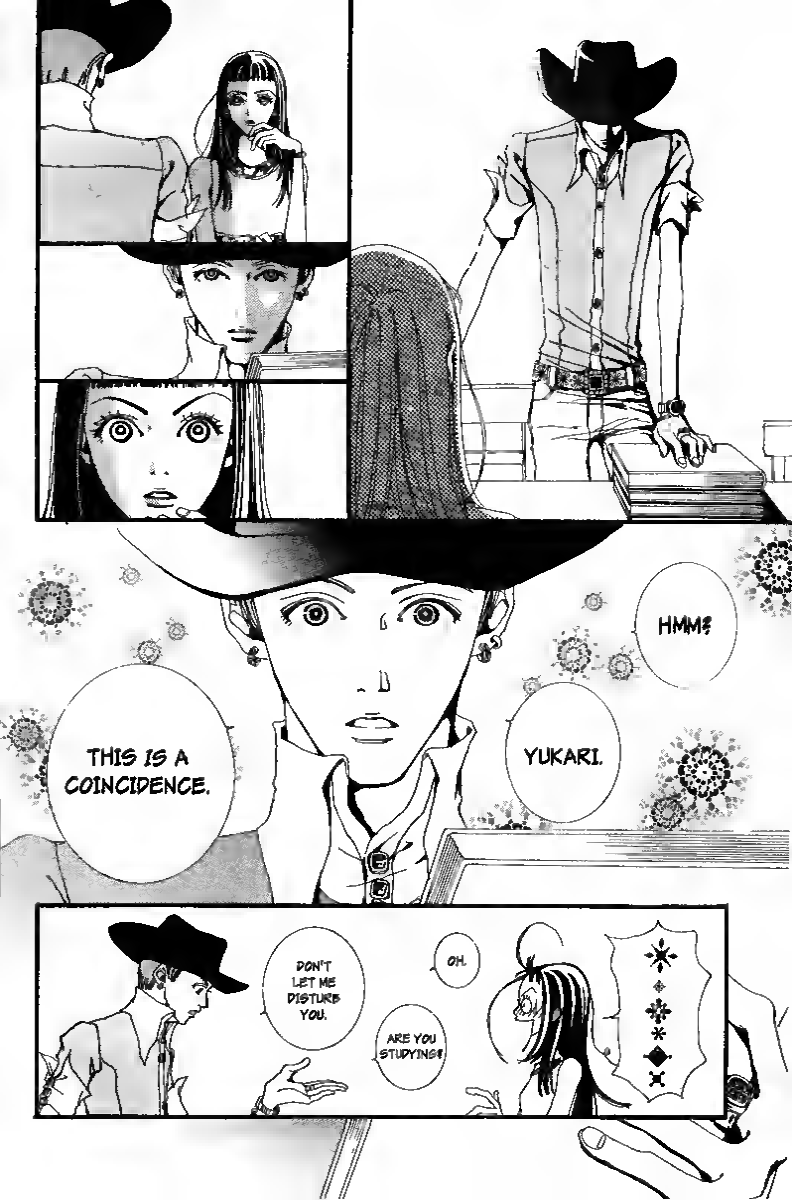
WAITING THREE DAYS

ONCE WE GET A LOT OF THEM MADE, WE'RE GOING TO TRY AND SELL THEM TO A BOUTIQUE.

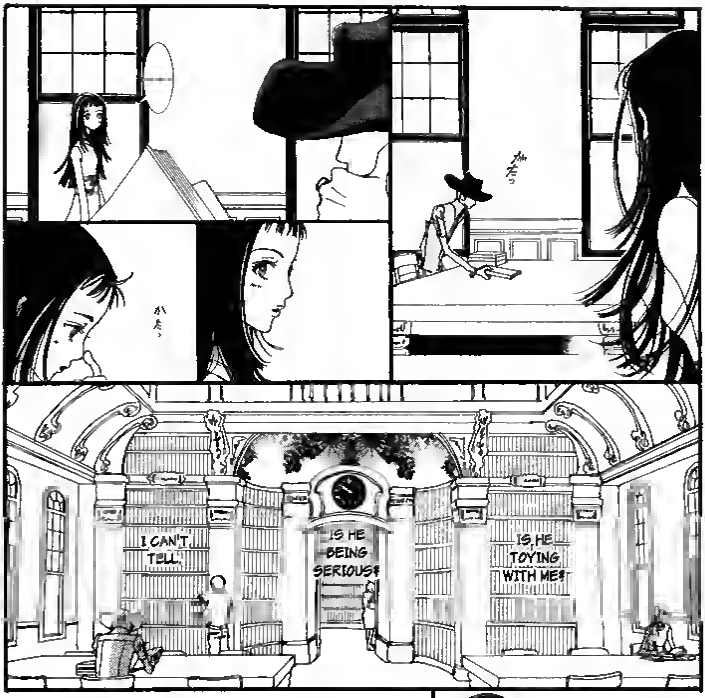
I KNOW WE'LL BE ABLE TO!

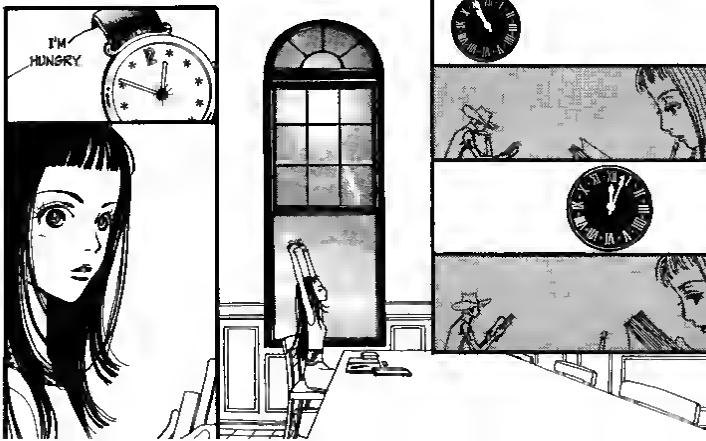


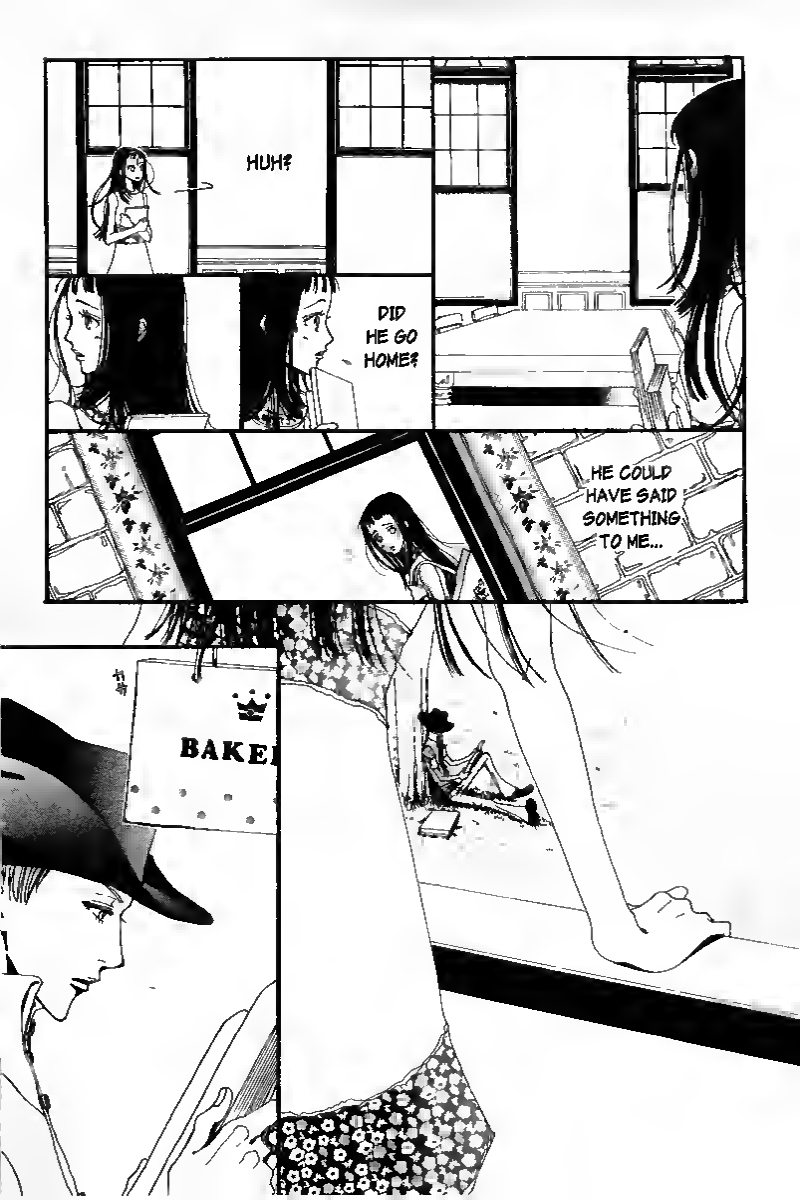



HMM?
YUKARI.
THIS IS A COINCIDENCE.
OH.
DON'T LET ME DISTURB YOU.
ARE YOU STUDYING?

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS HE DOING HERE?!
WHY AM I MEETING HIM AT A PLACE LIKE THIS?!
H-HOW CAN YOU NOT DISTURB ME?!
PARKINSON PHOTOGRAPHS
FASHION DRAWING IN V
CLOTHING from the 40s, 50s
GEORGE IS AN HONOR STUDENT.
OH.
I'M BOTHERING YOU.
I'M SORRY


I CAN'T TELL.
IS HE BEING SERIOUS?
IS HE TOYING WITH ME?


I'M HUNGRY.


HUH?
DID HE GO HOME?
HE COULD HAVE SAID SOMETHING TO ME...
BAKE

I BOUGHT SOME SANDWICHES
BAKERY
DO YOU WANT ONE?
OH?
DO YOU ALWAYS STUDY AT THE LIBRARY ON SUNDAY?
YUP
I GET LAZY IF I HANG AROUND THE HOUSE.
FUN?
.....
I ENVY HIM - FINDING STUDYING FUN.
DO YOU COME HERE OFTEN, GEORGE?
THIS IS MY FIRST TIME...
BUT I LIKE IT THEY HAVE A LOT OF UNUSUAL FOREIGN BOOKS.
CAN YOU READ THOSE BOOKS?
THIS IS IN FRENCH...
EVEN IF I CAN'T READ IT, LOOKING AT THE PICTURES IS USEFUL.
IT'S FUN.

YOU NEED A LITTLE BIT OF TALENT, A LOT OF PASSION AND UNLIMITED ENERGY!

THAT'S NOT WHAT I WAS ASKING.

THAT'S JUST LIKE YOU TO THINK OF THAT, YUKARI.

THERE'S NOTHING LIKE THAT

National exam?

Oh, but stylists have to take a national licensing exam.

IS THERE A NATIONAL EXAM OR ANYTHING?

DO YOU NEED SOME SORT OF LICENSE OR SOMETHING?

YOU WANT TO BE A PROFESSIONAL DESIGNER, DON'T YOU, GEORGE?

WELL...

THEN HOW DO YOU BECOME ONE?

IF YOU HAVE THE RIGHT MIX, THEN SOMEWHERE, A ROAD WILL OPEN FOR YOU.

I SEE...

I ENVY YOU...

MY PARENTS KIND OF THINK THAT IF YOU HAVEN'T GRADUATED FROM A GOOD COLLEGE YOU'RE NOTHING
WELL, I GUESS I'VE JUST GONE ALONG WITH THE FLOW...
COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMS AREN'T A GOOD GOAL?
THEY'RE SO PARTICULAR ABOUT EVERYTHING! IT DRIVES ME NUTS!
IT'S NOT FUNNY!
There are really parents like that?
Ha ha ha!
IT'S MY LIFE I JUST WANT TO LIVE IT MY WAY.
IF I HAD A DREAM
OR A GOAL LIKE THAT...
I'M BEGINNING TO UNDERSTAND WHY I'M SO DRAWN TO HIM.
...THEN MAYBE I WOULD BE ABLE TO OVERCOME THE OBSTACLES IN MY WAY...
AND I WOULDN'T HAVE AN ANSWER FOR THEM.
BUT I'M AFRAID THEY'D ASK, "THEN WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?"
I'M SORRY...

IT'S YOUR LIFE.
THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH TALKING ABOUT IT. I'LL LISTEN.
DON'T SAY YOU'RE SILLY.
I'M SORRY
IT'S NO FUN LISTENING TO OTHER PEOPLE'S PROBLEMS
HUH?
WHAT?
I'LL STOP.
I FEEL SILLY.
THAT'S ALRIGHT, THANK YOU.
UH, OH... I FEEL LIKE I'M GOING TO CRY.
I'LL BE STUDYING HERE UNTIL THE LIBRARY CLOSES WHAT ABOUT YOU?
AND ABOUT THE MODELING...
TELL THEM I'M STILL THINKING ABOUT IT.
THEN HAVE FUN
I SEE
I'D BETTER BE GETTING BACK TO THE STUDIO
.....
SAY "HI" TO MIWAKO AND THE OTHERS FOR ME

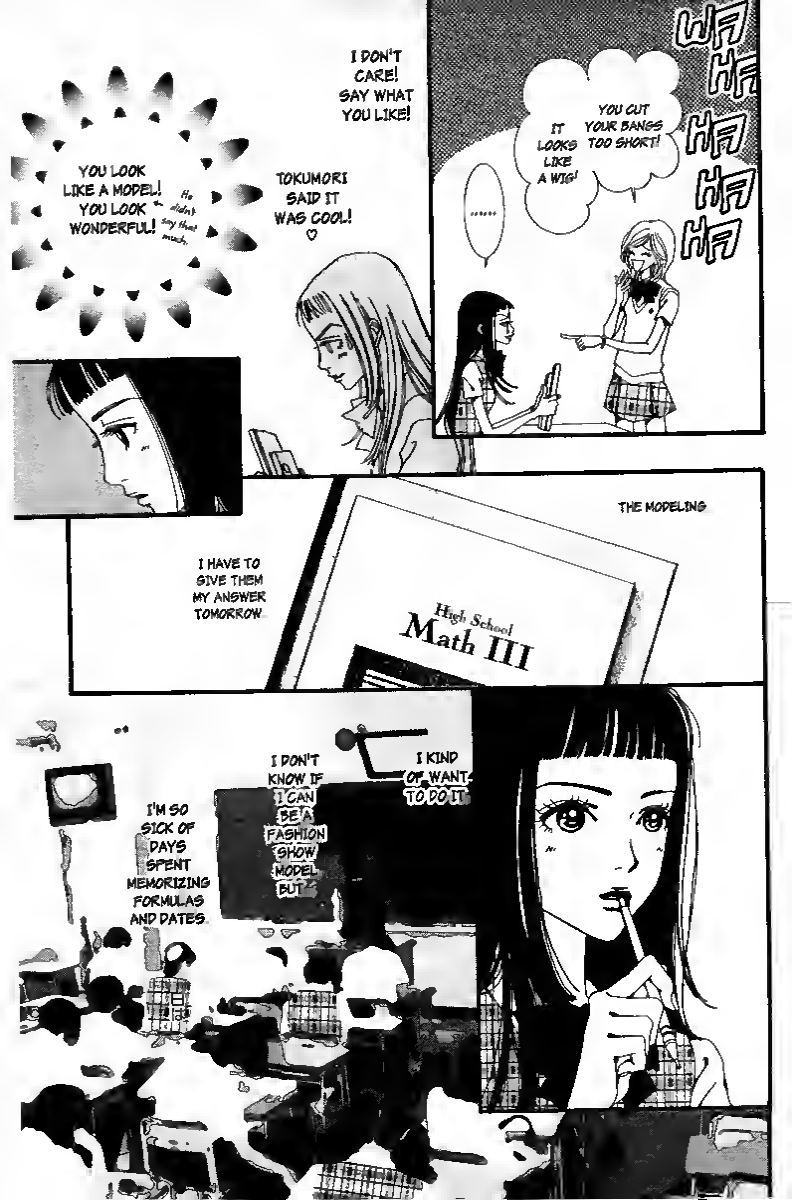
THOSE KIDS AT THE STUDIO ARE DIFFERENT...
BUT GEORGE IS DIFFERENT.
AFTER ALL...
THEY ARE LIVING THE LIFE THEY'VE CHOSEN FOR THEMSELVES.
...WOULD WANT TO LISTEN TO ME.
I THOUGHT NO ONE...
IF I TALKED ABOUT THINGS LIKE LIFE.
I THOUGHT THEY'D LAUGH...
I WISH I WAS LIKE THEM
I WISH I COULD LIVE LIKE THEM.

I CAN'T CONTROL THIS FEELING IN MY HEART.
I TOLD HIM THAT YOU WERE AT THE LIBRARY. DID YOU GET TO SEE HIM?
I DIDN'T TELL MOTHER.
SHE'D THROW A FIT IF SHE KNEW YOU HAD A BOYFRIEND
.....
HEY, SIS
YOU GOT A CALL FROM THIS GEORGE KOIZUMI GUY TODAY

BUT HOW DID HE KNOW MY PHONE NUMBER IN THE FIRST PLACE?
HE DIDN'T SEEM TO HAVE ANY AGENDA.
WHAT IS HE UP TO?
I don't remember giving it to him
I FEEL LIKE I'VE FALLEN STRAIGHT INTO A TRAP SET BY THE BOSS CHARACTER..
Paradise Corp.
BOSS CHARACTER AND HIS LACKEYS
THIS IS A COINCIDENCE.
TEN BUCKS FOR MY SILENCE.
HE WAS TOYING WITH ME.
UN-REQUITED LOVE?
HALF-PRICE THEN
SUGURU,
HE IS NOT MY BOYFRIEND
WHEN I THOUGHT GEORGE MAY HAVE SEEN THIS..
.. AND NOTICED THAT MY ADDRESS AND PHONE WERE LISTED NEXT TO THE PICTURE.
WANTING TO CALM MY HEART, I OPENED MY STUDENT FAGGBOOK..
MY HEART NEARLY STOPPED

STAGE 4

WOW
IT LOOKS COOL. LIKE A MODEL.
HEY, TOKUMORI.
YOU CAN'T TALK TO GIRLS ABOUT THEIR HAIR. THAT'S SEXUAL HARASSMENT.
SHE'LL COMPLAIN.
SEIEI Academy
HMM? GOOD MORNING, HAYASAKA.
DID YOU CHANGE YOUR HAIR?
I WOULDN'T CARE IF YOU HARASSED ME.
THAT'S OKAY, TOKUMORI!
BUT I DON'T SEE WHAT'S DIFFERENT.
Now that you say, I can see something's changed...
THIS IS A HARD WORLD TO LIVE IN.
WHY?
I WAS COMPLIMENTING HER.
WHAA? WHAT'S WITH YOUR HAIR, YUKARI?
THAT'S PROOF THAT HE REMEMBERS ME.
TOKUMORI NOTICED, THAT MY HAIR HAS CHANGED.
I'M SO HAPPY!


YOU LOOK LIKE A MODEL! YOU LOOK WONDERFUL!
He didn't say that much.
I DON'T CARE! SAY WHAT YOU LIKE!
TOKUMORI SAID IT WAS COOL! ♡
WA HA HA HA HA
YOU CUT YOUR BANGS TOO SHORT!
IT LOOKS LIKE A WIG!
.....
THE MODELING
I HAVE TO GIVE THEM MY ANSWER TOMORROW.
High School Math III
I'M SO SICK OF DAYS SPENT MEMORIZING FORMULAS AND DATES.
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN BE A FASHION SHOW MODEL BUT
I KIND OF WANT TO DO IT.

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE THOSE GUYS

I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GO TO THAT STUDIO AGAIN

AND IF I REFUSE..

"THERE'S NOTHING WRONG WITH TALKING ABOUT IT I'LL LISTEN."

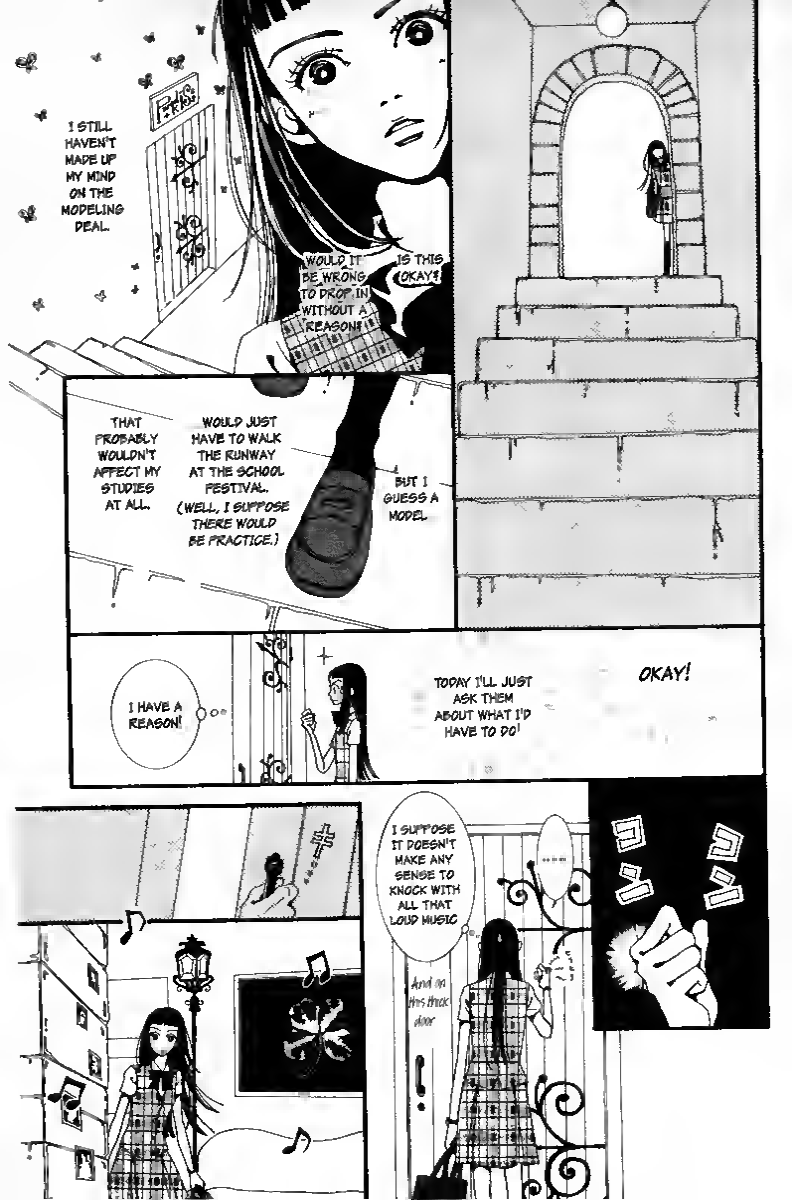
"IT'S YOUR LIFE"

STOP BY ANY TIME YOU FEEL LIKE IT

WE'RE ALWAYS HERE AFTER SCHOOL.

I HAVE A LITTLE TIME..

MY PREP SCHOOL BEGINS AT SIX


I STILL HAVEN'T MADE UP MY MIND ON THE MODELING DEAL.
IS THIS OKAY?
WOULD IT BE WRONG TO DROP IN WITHOUT A REASON?
BUT I GUESS A MODEL
WOULD JUST HAVE TO WALK THE RUNWAY AT THE SCHOOL FESTIVAL. (WELL, I SUPPOSE THERE WOULD BE PRACTICE.)
THAT PROBABLY WOULDN'T AFFECT MY STUDIES AT ALL.
OKAY!
TODAY I'LL JUST ASK THEM ABOUT WHAT I'D HAVE TO DO!
I HAVE A REASON!
I SUPPOSE IT DOESN'T MAKE ANY SENSE TO KNOCK WITH ALL THAT LOUD MUSIC
And on this thick door

SHITE!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?!
ガシッ

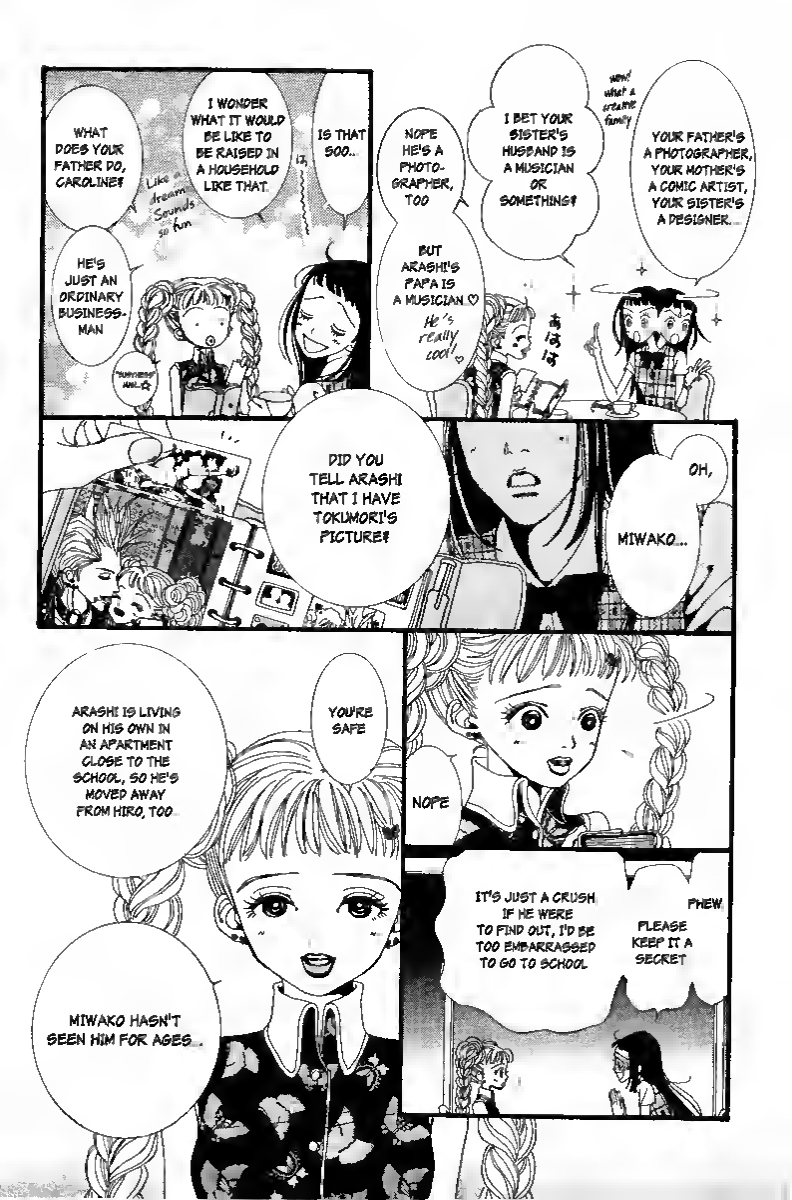
どん
MY...
HELLO THERE, HONEY.
UM...
ISABELLA! LET'S GO!
I THINK THEY'RE IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING.
WAIT! CAROLINE!
DON'T GO!
I'M SORRY. YOU CAN COME IN NOW.
PUT YOUR BOOBS AWAYS, WOULDJA?
MIWAKO
DON'T BE SLOVENLY IN FRONT OF OUR GUEST.
YOU HAVE TO DO UP YOUR BUTTONS.
ON,
THANK YOU.
"THANK YOU"? EVEN IF HE'S IN DRAG, IT'S STILL A GUY TOUCHING YOUR BOOBS!

I don't understand. Someone help me.
WELL
I CAN UNDERSTAND BUT
BUT ARASHI LIKES THINGS OTHER THAN BEDS ♡
WHAT AM I GOING TO DO WITH YOU TWO?
ARASHI, MIWAKO, THIS ISN'T A BROTHEL
AND A POOL TABLE ISN'T A BED
THEY'RE ALL FREAKS!
ARE THEY REALLY THE SAME AGE AS ME?
BACK TO WORK
OH, DEAR.
I'M OUT OF TEA LEAVES
I'LL GO GET SOME!
MY, THANK YOU VERY MUCH!
MIWAKO WILL GO, TOO ♡
SO, YOU AND ARASHI ARE GOING OUT?
YUP! ♡
THAT'S RIGHT
ARASHI MAY LOOK MEAN, BUT HE'S REALLY SWEET
I FEEL SO SAFE WHEN I'M WITH HIM.
HE'S BEEN LIKE FAMILY TO ME FOR A LONG TIME

A LONG TIME?
Family?
ARASHI AND I WERE BORN NOT TOO FAR FROM EACH OTHER WE'VE BEEN TOGETHER ALL OUR LIVES ♡
WOW, IS THAT SO?
SO, YOU'RE CHILDHOOD FRIENDS
WAIT, CHILDHOOD FRIENDS AND LOVERS
LIKE A FAIRY-TALE ROMANCE!
THAT'S SO NEAT! ♡
DON'T YOU HAVE A BOYFRIEND, CAROLINE?
HUH?
NO, I DON'T!
I'M NOT PROUD, BUT I HAVEN'T HAD A BOYFRIEND MY WHOLE LIFE!
WHA?
BUT WHAT ABOUT HIRO?
Hiro?
Who?
I'M SORRY...
BUT I SAW THE PICTURE IN YOUR STUDENT PASSBOOK, CAROLINE
I WAS THINKING I HAD TO GET IT BACK TO YOU...
I WROTE DOWN YOUR CONTACT ADDRESS, TOO
I'M SORRY
BUT IN THE END, GEORGE TOOK BOTH THE PASSBOOK AND MY MEMO!
I'm sorry
I'm sorry

BUT WHY GEORGE?
THANK GOD! ♡
SO THAT'S IT
IS THERE SOMETHING THAT YOU DON'T WANT GEORGE TO SEE?
THAT GUY?
I MEAN GEORGE
DOES THAT MEAN THAT GUY HASN'T SEEN THE INSIDE OF MY PASSBOOK?
WAIT, MIWAKO!
I DON'T THINK GEORGE WOULD LOOK IN A GIRL'S PASSBOOK.
He's a gentleman
.....
OH, NOTHING
THE GUY IN THE PICTURE.
THAT'S HIROYUKI TOKUMORI, ISN'T IT?
MIWAKO THOUGHT CAROLINE WAS HIRO'S GIRLFRIEND
SO,
THAT'S RIGHT. WHY SHOULD I BE WORRIED ABOUT GEORGE SEEING TOKUMORI'S PICTURE?
It's none of his business
?

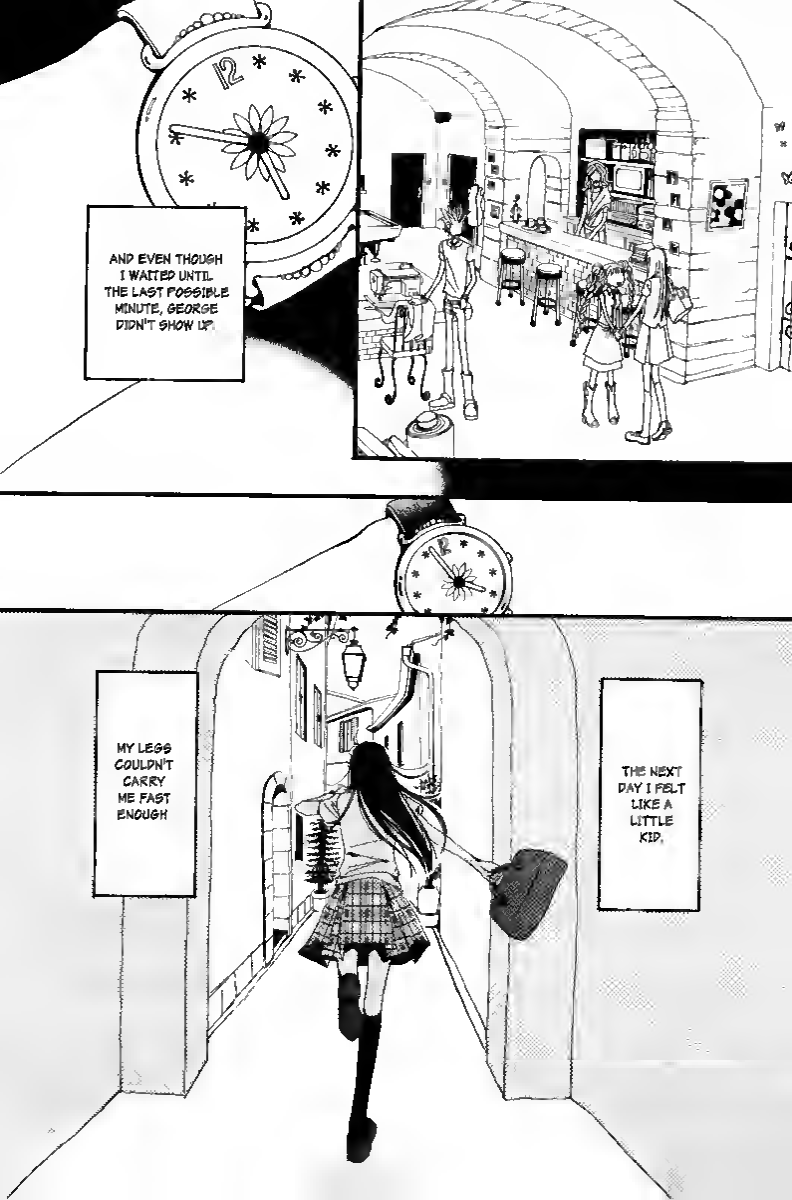
THIS IS HIRO IN THE THIRD GRADE.
AND THIS IS MIWAKO AND ARASHI.
HOW DOES SHE KNOW?!
HIRO
WHAT A SMALL WORLD!
HOW CUTE! ♡
HE LOOKS THE SAME!
YOU'RE RIGHT IT IS TOKUMORI.
UNTIL EIGHTH GRADE, MIWAKO LIVED IN THE SAME APARTMENT AS HIRO.
THE THREE OF US ALL PLAYED TOGETHER.
WHEN PAPA AND MAMA WENT TO WORK OVERSEAS
BUT MIWAKO MOVED IN WITH SISSY AND HER HUSBAND IN NINTH GRADE,
HIRO IS STILL LIVING IN THE SAME APARTMENT
WHAT ABOUT NOW?
HUH? UNTIL EIGHTH GRADE?
WOW, THAT'S INCRE-DIBLE!
MAMA IS A GIRLS' COMIC WRITER. RIGHT NOW SHE'S TRAVELING WITH PAPA AND DOING TRAVEL COMICS.
PAPA IS A PHOTOGRAPHER. HE TAKES PICTURES OF THE SKY IN DIFFERENT COUNTRIES.
WHAT DO YOUR PARENTS DO?
WOW, OVERSEAS?


WHAT DOES YOUR FATHER DO, CAROLINE?
I WONDER WHAT IT WOULD BE LIKE TO BE RAISED IN A HOUSEHOLD LIKE THAT.
Like a dream. Sounds so fun
IS THAT SOO...
HE'S JUST AN ORDINARY BUSINESS-MAN
"ORDINARY" HAH...☆
NOPE HE'S A PHOTO-GRAPHER, TOO
I BET YOUR SISTER'S HUSBAND IS A MUSICIAN OR SOMETHING?
Wow! what a creative family
YOUR FATHER'S A PHOTOGRAPHER, YOUR MOTHER'S A COMIC ARTIST, YOUR SISTER'S A DESIGNER...
BUT ARASHI'S PAPA IS A MUSICIAN ♡
He's really cool! ♡
DID YOU TELL ARASHI THAT I HAVE TOKUMORI'S PICTURE?
OH, MIWAKO...
NOPE
ARASHI IS LIVING ON HIS OWN IN AN APARTMENT CLOSE TO THE SCHOOL, SO HE'S MOVED AWAY FROM HIRO, TOO
YOU'RE SAFE
MIWAKO HASN'T SEEN HIM FOR AGES...
IT'S JUST A CRUSH. IF HE WERE TO FIND OUT, I'D BE TOO EMBARRASSED TO GO TO SCHOOL
PHEW.
PLEASE KEEP IT A SECRET

NO MATTER HOW CLOSE YOU ARE AS KIDS, ONCE YOU GO TO DIFFERENT SCHOOLS AND LIVE IN DIFFERENT PLACES, YOU START BECOMING STRANGERS
THIS CITY IS FULL OF PEOPLE.
I WONDER HOW MANY OF THEM I'LL EVER GET TO KNOW.
...HER EYES WERE KIND OF SAD
MIWAKO'S MOUTH WAS SMILING, BUT...
HOW MANY OF THEM WILL I BECOME FRIENDS WITH?
LET'S BUY SOME.
THIS TEA IS YUMMY! ♡
MAYBE I WILL BE YOUR MODEL.

LET'S GO BACK TO THE STUDIO AND WE'LL FILL YOU IN
BUT I HAVE TO BE GETTING TO MY PREP SCHOOL.
I'LL STOP BY TOMORROW AND WE'LL TALK
OH! THAT'S RIGHT!
I'M SORRY FOR TAKING UP SO MUCH TIME.
WHAT? DO YOU MEAN THAT, CAROLINE?!
YOU'LL REALLY DO IT FOR US?!
YES BUT...
I STILL REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND WHAT I NEED TO DO...
OH! THAT'S RIGHT. WE NEVER REALLY EXPLAINED IT TO YOU. SORRY!
OH, WOW I LEFT MY BAG AT THE STUDIO SO WE NEED TO GO BACK FIRST.
OH!
RIGHT
I'M SORRY.
WHY ARE YOU APOLOGIZ-ING?
RIGHT... OH
HUH?
NOT "I'M SORRY."
"THANK YOU."

THANK YOU, CAROLINE.
MIWAKO IS SO CUTE.
YOU JUST WANT TO HUG AND SQUEEZE HER.
LIKE HAPPY LITTLE KIDS, WE WALKED BACK TO THE STUDIO HOLDING HANDS
ARASHI WILL SAY SOMETHING SNIDE.
ISABELLA WILL GIVE ME A BIG, SWEET SMILE
WHEN I ANNOUNCE THAT I'LL BE THEIR MODEL
I WONDER WHAT THE OTHERS WILL THINK.
I REALLY WANT TO SEE THAT
BUT I CAN'T IMAGINE HOW HE WILL REACT.

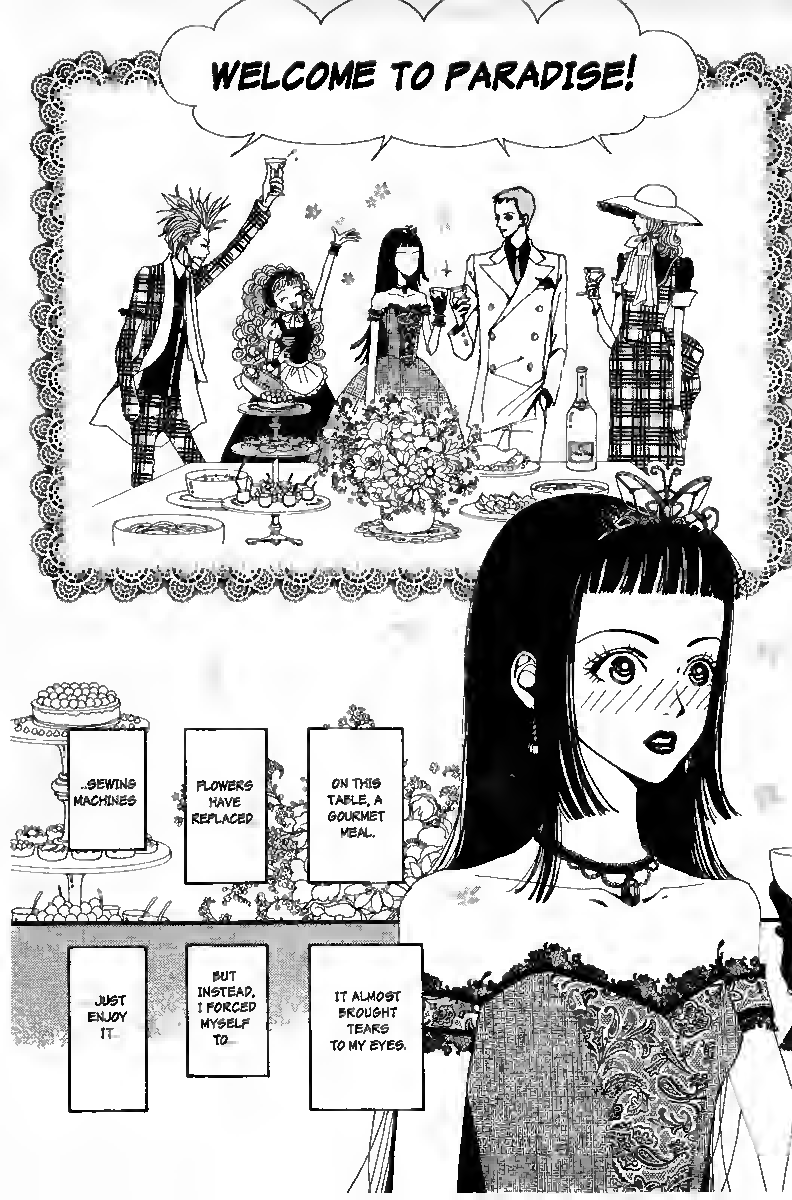

AND EVEN THOUGH I WAITED UNTIL THE LAST POSSIBLE MINUTE, GEORGE DIDN'T SHOW UP.
MY LEGS COULDN'T CARRY ME FAST ENOUGH
THE NEXT DAY I FELT LIKE A LITTLE KID.

STAGE 5

YOU THINK YOU CAN HANDLE IT?
ONCE YOU'VE MADE THE DECISION, YOU'LL HAVE TO WORK BY OUR SCHEDULE.
EVEN IF YOU'RE BUSY WITH YOUR EXAMS...
..YOU CAN'T PUT YOUR SCHEDULE AHEAD OF OURS
YOU THINK YOU CAN DO THAT?
WHAT THE...?

I'LL DO IT!
AFTER ALL, IT WAS MY DECISION TO DO IT!
I'LL TAKE RESPONSIBILITY FOR MY PART!
I FINALLY DECIDED TO DO IT FOR YOU. WHAT'S WITH THE ICY ATTITUDE ALL OF A SUDDEN?
NO PROBLEM. I WON'T HOLD YOU UP.
?!
AHA HA HA HA!
WHAT'S SO FUNNY?!
WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?
.....
WHAT'S WITH HIM?
I CAN NEVER TELL WHAT HE'S THINKING.
I THOUGHT HE'D BE PLEASED.

I AM PROUD TO ANNOUNCE THAT THIS MONTH'S EPISODE WILL BE "THE WELCOME PARTY" GET READY.
BUT WE CAN'T HAVE THE MAIN CHARACTER LOOKING SO LIFELESS
HUH?
HURRY UP, CAROLINE MIWAKO WILL HELP YOU.
NO, I'M HAPPY.
WELCOME PARTY
MAIN CHARACTER
WHAAT?
ポン
ぬりぬり
ミャー!


WELCOME TO PARADISE!
...SEWING MACHINES
FLOWERS HAVE REPLACED
ON THIS TABLE, A GOURMET MEAL.
JUST ENJOY IT...
BUT INSTEAD, I FORCED MYSELF TO...
IT ALMOST BROUGHT TEARS TO MY EYES.

WHAT?! ISABELLA MADE ALL OF THIS?!
Wow! Awesome!
DO YOU LIKE IT? ♡
YES!
IT'S SO GOOD!
THANK YOU SO MUCH! ♡
IT'S ALRIGHT, EVERYTHING IS LOW-CALORIE
CAROLINE, YOU LOOK PRETTY IN THAT DRESS AND TIARA. ♡
YOU REALLY EAT A LOT
IS THAT OKAY FOR SOMEONE ABOUT TO BECOME A MODEL?
...
DOESN'T MATTER IF YOU'RE EATING THAT MUCH.
YOU'RE A TOTALLY DIFFERENT PERSON FROM WHEN YOU'RE IN YOUR UNIFORM.
LIKE CINDERELLA! ♡
say cheese!
DOESN'T YOUR MAGIC RUN OUT AT SIX O'CLOCK?
IT'S ALREADY FIVE, ARE YOU STILL OKAY, CINDERELLA?
...
ISN'T THAT THE DRESS GEORGE MADE FOR THE FESTIVAL EXHIBITION IN HIS FIRST YEAR?
THAT BRINGS BACK MEMORIES
WHAT?!
IS THAT SO?
I thought it was Paradise Kiss's
YOU SEEM MORE LIKE ONE OF THE MEAN STEP SISTERS THAN CINDERELLA...
IT SEEMS LIKE IT WAS MADE FOR YOU, CAROLINE. IT FITS YOU PERFECTLY
IT'S LIKE FATE ♡
Oh, really? I think it's a coincidence
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MADE THIS IN YOUR FIRST YEAR.
YOU'RE A GENIUS, GEORGE!
I KNOW!
How about a little modesty?

BUT STILL...
IT IS PRETTY REMARK-ABLE
I SUDDENLY FEEL ALL TINGLY...
ARE YOU OKAY DRINKING SO MUCH BEFORE YOUR PREP SCHOOL?
HUH?
THIS IS BUBBLY, RIGHT?
Call it champagne, Cinderella
LIKE WHAT YOU DRINK AT CHRISTMAS AND SUCH?
Aha ha ha!
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT THE KIDS' STUFF WITHOUT ANY ALCOHOL, RIGHT?
HUH?
WELL, YES BUT
THIS ISN'T THE SAME?
THAT HAS THE SAME AMOUNT OF ALCOHOL AS WINE
NO WAY! I JUST DRANK ALL OF IT!
YOU SHOULD BE GOING NOW, SHOULDN'T YOU?
MIWAKO, HELP YUKARI CHANGE.
HOLD ON, YUKARI!
DON'T YOU DARE DO THAT OLD ACT OF GOING SPLAT AS SOON AS YOU GET UP
I BEG YOUR PARDON,
I DON'T GET DRUNK!
Aha ha ha!
HE MAY SAY HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT MY SCHEDULE, BUT HE'S STILL KEEPING TRACK OF IT.

LISTEN CLOSELY, CINDERELLA.
YOU MUST RETURN
BEFORE SIX O'CLOCK.
OR YOUR MAGIC WILL DISAPPEAR.
WELCOME TO PARADISE.

OH?
GOOD MORNING
HUH?!
WHAT?!
IT'S NINE ALREADY, YOU'RE LATE FOR SCHOOL.
FROM CINDERELLA TO SLEEPING BEAUTY ARE YOU SOBER NOW?

.....
THEY LEFT A LONG TIME AGO
WHERE'S EVERYONE?
HUH?
WHAT
NO WAY!
WANT SOME COFFEE?
NO WAY!
IS IT REALLY NINE O'CLOCK?!
DARK
.....
EVEN IF THEY FORGAVE ME FOR THE DRINKING AND BEING OUT ALL NIGHT...
DRINKING AND OUT ALL NIGHT!
...HOW AM I GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS TO MY PARENTS?!

IT'S NINE P.M.!
OH?
WHADDYA MEAN "OH?"
YOU NEED TO CALL MIWAKO SHE WAS VERY WORRIED ABOUT YOU.
SHE WAS PRACTICALLY IN TEARS AS SHE LEFT TO CARE OF HER KID
HUH? KID?
HM?
DIDN'T YOU KNOW?
THEY HAVE A KID.
NO WAY!
IS IT ARASHI'S CHILD?
MIWAKO IS STAYING WITH SISSY AND HER HUSBAND ♡
SHE'S SPEED-DIAL #3.
GO OUTSIDE THERE'S NO SIGNAL IN HERE.
DON'T YOU MEAN HER SISTER'S KID?
OH?
YOU'RE BEGINNING TO UNDER-STAND ME
HOW NICE.
I DON'T UNDERSTAND HIM AT ALL!

OH!
CAROLINE! ARE YOU ALRIGHT?!
I'M SORRY FOR GETTING YOU DRUNK.
WHO IS IT?! WHO IS IT?!
YES, SHE'S MY SISTER'S DAUGHTER.
SHE JUST TURNED THREE.
WHO IS IT?!
SISSY AND TSUTOMU ALWAYS HAVE TO STAY LATE AT WORK, SO I HELP OUT AND BABYSIT HER.
Oh, Tsutomu is Sissy's husband
HELLO! ♡
NOW, ALICE!
あはは
HER NAME IS ALICE!
THAT'S SO CUTE. ♡
YES I'M FINE. ACTUALLY,
I HAD A GREAT TIME
THANK YOU. ♡
YEAH, I MISSED MY PREP SCHOOL, BUT MY PARENTS WON'T FIND OUT
RIGHT, IT USUALLY RUNS UNTIL NINE.
MM-HMM I CAN TELL THEM I CAUGHT A COLD AND COULDN'T COME.
HEY, THAT'S MY BOOKBAG, GEORGE!

STOP MESSING AROUND WITH ME!
GEEN!
OH, I'M SORRY. IT'S NOTHING.
MM-HMM. GOOD NIGHT.
I'LL STOP BY THE STUDIO AFTER SCHOOL TOMORROW.
I'LL TAKE YOU HOME.
GET IN
IT'S NOT SAFE AT THIS TIME OF NIGHT.
I ALWAYS GO HOME FROM MY PREP SCHOOL ALONE.
I'D BE ALRIGHT ON MY OWN
BUT THE PACKED TRAINS ARE SO GLOOMY.

I'LL DO MY BEST FOR ALL OF YOU.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR EVERY-THING.
BYE, GEORGE.
YUP.
ARE YOU REALLY OKAY HERE?
TALK ABOUT WAKING TO THE BITTER REALITY...
IT'S JUST AROUND THE CORNER. I'D GET IN TROUBLE
IF YOU STOPPED THE CAR IN FRONT OF THE HOUSE.
BUT WHAT SHOULD I DO NOW?
And what was it who got me drunk?
JUST FOR TODAY!
Drinking and skipping class
YOU'VE REALLY TURNED INTO A BAD GIRL.
JUST COME AGAIN TOMORROW
YUKARI!

IT'S NOT COMING OFF
HM...
MIWAKO MUST HAVE USED LONG-LASTING LIPSTICK.

I THOUGHT HE WAS GOING TO KISS ME!

I...

HIDE YOUR LIPS AND GO STRAIGHT TO THE BATHROOM.

GOOD NIGHT DEAR ♡

MY HEAD WAS SPINNING.

THE OVERPOWERING SCENT OF GEORGE'S COLOGNE FILLED MY LUNGS

WHEN HE PRESSED HIS HANDKERCHIEF TO MY LIPS

...IT WAS LIKE SOMETHING I'D NEVER FELT BEFORE.

STAGE 6

I CAN HEAR YOU FINE. YOU DON'T HAVE TO GET SO CLOSE.
.....
HANGOVER?
YOU DON'T LOOK WELL, YUKARI.
OKAY. ♡
GET YUKARI'S MEASUREMENTS
MIWAKO
ALRIGHT, THEN.
ポン
NO, I'M OKAY
OR DOES IT MATTER?
NOT THAT IT MATTERS.
WHY DOES HE TOUCH ME ALL THE TIME?
I FEEL LIKE GEORGE HAS BEEN GIVING ME THE RUNAROUND EVER SINCE I MET HIM

I'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT HIM WAY TOO MUCH...

WHY SHOULD IT MATTER TO ME?!

I'VE GOT THE MODEL'S MEASUREMENTS!

GOOD WORK.

LET'S SEE.

NO! YOU CAN'T!

DON'T LOOK, YOU PERVERT!!

ばっ

うひゃひゃ

PERVERT!

Got that right!

ギャー

OH, DEAR. THIS IS A PROBLEM.

WE CAN'T MAKE THE DRESS WITHOUT THOSE.

I FORGOT THEY'D NEED MY MEASUREMENTS.

And down to the last detail

Stop aiming for my bum

RIGHT SHALL WE GO GET ONE NOW?
DO YOU WANT TO DRIVE?
BUT... OF COURSE
SHALL WE BORROW A TORSO OF YUKARI'S SIZE FROM SCHOOL?
WHAT'S A TORSO?
THIS. ♡
WHAT DO YOU DO WITH IT?
LATER.
WE'LL BE BACK SOON SEE YOU LATER.
WOW, GEORGE! THAT'S RIGHT ON! ♡
SHE'S PROBABLY A 32"-24"-33"
IDIOT SAVANT EH?
AND PEOPLE SAY I'M A FREAK.
GOOD DESIGNERS CAN MEASURE THAT WITH THEIR EYES
JUST GIVE ME YOUR NUMBER, THEN.
WELL, YES
I don't use it much though
OH, THAT'S RIGHT. DO YOU HAVE A CELL PHONE, YUKARI?
I'LL CALL YOU SOMETIME SOON
UNTIL THEN, CONCENTRATE ON YOUR STUDYING.
BUT IT'S SO LONG.
Um,
IT'S 000-0XXX-XOXO
YOU SHOULD REMEMBER YOUR OWN PHONE NUMBER.
WAIT. LET ME GET IT. I DON'T REMEMBER THE NUMBER.
THOUGHT ALL GIRLS KNEW THAT.
HUH? I DON'T KNOW HOW TO DO THAT!
WHEE! ♡ THAT'S THE SAME AS MIWAKO'S PHONE! LET'S BE PENPALS! ♡

パタン…
Z進学塾
SO...
I DON'T NEED TO COME TO THE STUDIO EVERY DAY
HMM...
I SEE.
I GUESS MODELS AREN'T NEEDED MUCH EXCEPT ON THE DAY OF THE SHOW.
BUT DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T DROP IN NOW AND THEN?
I SUPPOSE THAT HELPS ME OUT.
Look at me, feeling down.
THIS IS BAD
I'M REALLY IN DEEP
I CAN'T CONCENTRATE ON THE CLASS AT ALL.
I'LL CALL YOU SOMETIME SOON.
ポン
.....
WHAT AM I DOING?
HE WOULDN'T CALL ME THAT QUICKLY

I AM IN WAY TOO DEEP!
CELL PHONE ON MY PILLOW!
THAT'S LIKE A GIRL HEAD OVER HEELS IN LOVE!
がばぁ
CALM DOWN!
I NEED MY STUDENT PASSBOOK BY MY PILLOW!
TOKUMORI IS THE GUY THAT I LOVE!
Next turn to page 74.
HOW DO I LOVE THEE? LET ME COUNT THE WAYS...
HE'S HANDSOME, OF COURSE
HE'S HONEST, SINCERE, AND KIND
HE'S THE TOP OF THE CLASS
HE'S ALSO THE TALLEST IN THE CLASS ♡

What about class?
STOP! I HAVE TO CONCENTRATE ON TOKUMORI.
I LOVE HIRO. ♡
AM I CATCHING COLD?
I'M 6' 0" THERE AREN'T MANY GUYS THAT I HAVE TO LOOK UP AT
Maybe six feet I wonder
BUT GEORGE IS PRETTY TALL AS WELL.
SPEAKING OF HEIGHT, ISABELLA IS TALL.
LOOKING UP AT
THAT'S HIROYUKI TOKUMORI, ISN'T IT?
UNTIL EIGHTH GRADE, MIWAKO LIVED IN THE SAME APARTMENT AS HIRO
THE THREE OF US ALL PLAYED TOGETHER
MIWAKO HASN'T SEEN HIM FOR AGES
YOU RE SAFE

I'M SURE SHE WAS BEING POLITE BY NOT SAYING ANYTHING

SHE LOOKED SO SAD

I WONDER IF MIWAKO MISSES TOKUMORI!

I WAS ONLY THINKING OF MYSELF AT THE TIME. I WAS SO RELIEVED WHEN SHE PROMISED TO KEEP IT SECRET.

I...

ARASHI!

WHAT WOULD BE A GOOD WAY!

WHAT SHOULD I DO!

OH, NO... I SHOULD HAVE BEEN MORE THOUGHTFUL AND SET UP A MEETING

Would a coffee shop be safe?

SOMEPLACE WHERE THEY CAN MEET AND SPEND TIME CATCHING UP.

THAT CAFE WHERE WE HAD TEA THE OTHER DAY WOULD BE NICE.

And there are strange beings like Isabella and Gauge there too.

THE STUDIO IS THEIR WORK-PLACE, AFTER ALL.

I CAN'T JUST BRING TOKUMORI TO THE STUDIO ALL OF A SUDDEN.

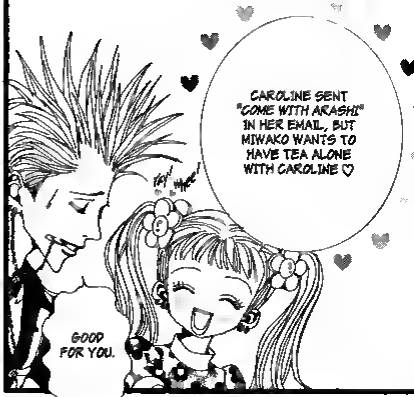
I'LL HAVE TO GET THEM TOGETHER SOMEWHERE ELSE.

LET'S BE PEN-PALS.

.....

OHH!
SHE GOT THE HANG OF THAT QUICKLY
SHE MUST HAVE A LOT OF FREE TIME AFTER ALL.
WE'VE BEEN SENDING MESSAGES BACK AND FORTH FOR FUN ALL DAY.
SHE ANSWERS SO QUICKLY MUST BE 'CUZ SHE'S SMART
SHE INVITED ME TO TEA AFTER SCHOOL.♡
ISN'T THAT NEAT!♡
HUH! WHY ARE YOU GOING OUT FOR TEA! IF SHE'S FREE, SHE CAN JUST COME TO THE STUDIO.
GUESS WHAT! I GOT AN EMAIL FROM CAROLINE ♡
FOURTH PERIOD IS OVER.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE SKIPPING CLASS
Here's your lunch
THE HISTORY OF CLOTHING IS SO BORING
THAT'S YOUR FAVORITE FOOD
OH, RIGHT.
IT MUST BE BECAUSE WE DON'T HAVE CHOCOLATE BANANA PARFAIT AT THE STUDIO
HUH!
GOOD. ♡
FECKIN' NO.
WILL YOU COME TOO, ARASHI!

NOW WHAT TO DO...?
ざわ
ざわ


CAROLINE SENT "COME WITH ARASHI" IN HER EMAIL, BUT MIWAKO WANTS TO HAVE TEA ALONE WITH CAROLINE ♡
GOOD FOR YOU.

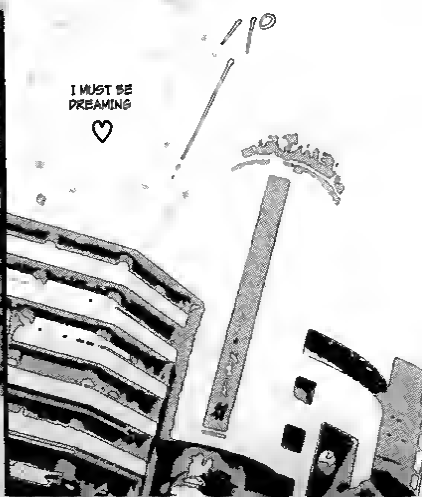
キーン コーン カーン コーン
SEIEI Academy
BUT WHAT SHOULD I SAY TO TOKUMORI?
(OF COURSE I DIDN'T INCLUDE ALL OF THE DETAILS IN THE EMAIL. I WANT IT TO BE A SURPRISE.)
IT WAS EASY TO SET UP MIWAKO
C'MON, GO HOME, HIROYUKI. LET'S BAIL.
WHAT WOULD BE A GOOD STORY ?
I NEED TO KEEP IT A SECRET

AAAACK!
WAIT! HIRO!
YOU CAN'T GO HOME!
TH--
THE TEACHER WAS CALLING YOU ♡
OKAY
THIS IS BAD.
WHAT'S THE USE OF A LIE LIKE THAT?!
That's just a stupid prank.
SORRY
YOU GO ON AHEAD
.....

ALRIGHT!
THE THIRD PARTY IS GONE.
NOW'S MY CHANCE!
LET'S TRY AGAIN!!
UM.
I JUST WANTED TO TALK TO YOU PRIVATELY.
I'M SORRY, BUT I LIED.
..TO HAVE TEA WITH ME?
WOULD YOU LIKE.

.....
...THEN LET'S GO TO A CAFE SOMEWHERE.
HE WAS WORRIED!
I KNOW A GOOD PLACE!
OKAY
YOU LOOK LIKE YOU'VE BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS, HAYASAKA I WAS WORRIED
I HAVE PREP SCHOOL AT FIVE-THIRTY, SO I DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME BUT IF THAT'S OKAY...
ERR!
IT SOUNDS LIKE I'M ASKING HIM OUT.
what are you sacrificing yourself for? I can't stand it!
OKAY IT'S ABOUT EXAMS, ISN'T IT?

I'M WALKING WITH TOKUMORI THROUGH THE CITY...
I GUESS THERE'S A BONUS TO SACRIFICING YOURSELF.


I MUST BE DREAMING
♡

IS THAT SO?
YES... UM...
THAT'S OKAY. MY PREP SCHOOL IS ONLY ONE STATION AWAY FROM HERE.
I'M SORRY, I KNOW YOU'RE BUSY. THANKS FOR COMING.
MY PREP SCHOOL IS NEAR HERE!
THE CAFE IS ON THIS ROAD.
WE'RE ALMOST THERE.
HOW FAR IS SHE TAKING ME?
HOPE MIWAKO WILL BE HAPPY. ♡
Is she laughing?
DO YOU COME TO THIS AREA OFTEN?

HOLD ON...

HOLD ON!
GEORGE!!
JUST THEN...
CHOCOLATE BANANA PARFAIT, PLEASE. ♡
I WOULD HAVE STARTED RUNNING AFTER GEORGE.
...I WOULDN'T HAVE CARED WHAT TOKUMORI THOUGHT.
IF I WASN'T MEETING MIWAKO...

STAGE 7

...SO CLOSE TO THE STUDIO
I SHOULDN'T HAVE MADE THE MEETING...
ざわ
ざわ
ざわ
LET'S HURRY THERE'S NO TIME TO DILLY-DALLY.
SORRY! FORGET IT.
BUT I MIGHT BE MISTAKEN.
THAT GUY WHO JUST PASSED...
DO YOU KNOW HIM?
A LITTLE...
UM...
YEAH...

THAT'S RIGHT I DON'T NEED TO WORRY ABOUT IT
IT DOESN'T MATTER THAT GEORGE SAW ME WITH TOKUMORI.
THAT'S NOT A PROBLEM
BUT WHY AM I SO FLUSTERED?
WHY DID HE IGNORE ME, ANYWAY? (THAT WAS SO COLD!)
HE COULDN'T THINK HE WAS BEING POLITE, COULD HE? I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M SO HURT ABOUT IT.
I'LL CALL YOU SOMETIME UNTIL THEN, CONCENTRATE ON YOUR STUDYING
OR WAS HE PISSED? I KEPT SAYING THAT I'M BUSY WITH EXAMS, BUT NOW IT LOOKS LIKE I'M SCREWING AROUND!
THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS!
IT'S TRUE THAT I WAS FEELING GIDDY BECAUSE I WAS WALKING WITH TOKUMORI BUT
But that's
How would you say
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, HAYASAKA?
HUH?! WHAT?!
ER.. YOU KIND OF SEEMED..
You were smiling then frowning.
A LITTLE EMOTIONALLY DISTURBED

THAT'S NOT IT. I'M FINE!

OH, NO! I CAN'T LOOK DEPRESSED!

WE'RE ABOUT TO HAVE A HAPPY REUNION

DON'T PUSH YOURSELF SO HARD

YOUR PROBLEMS SEEM WORSE THAN I'D THOUGHT

.....

I CAN'T DARN... LOOK TOO HAPPY EITHER

Mesh... I shouldn't have made up all those lies. I should have told the truth.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'LL PICK FOR A MAJOR IN COLLEGE, HAYASAKA?

NOT REALLY

I REALLY DON'T KNOW YET...

THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULDN'T PUSH YOURSELF SO HARD ON THE EXAMS

WELL.

I KNOW IT SOUNDS IRRESPONSIBLE...

BUT SOMETIMES I WONDER.

GETTING INTO THE RIGHT COLLEGE AND GETTING HIRED BY THE RIGHT COMPANY...

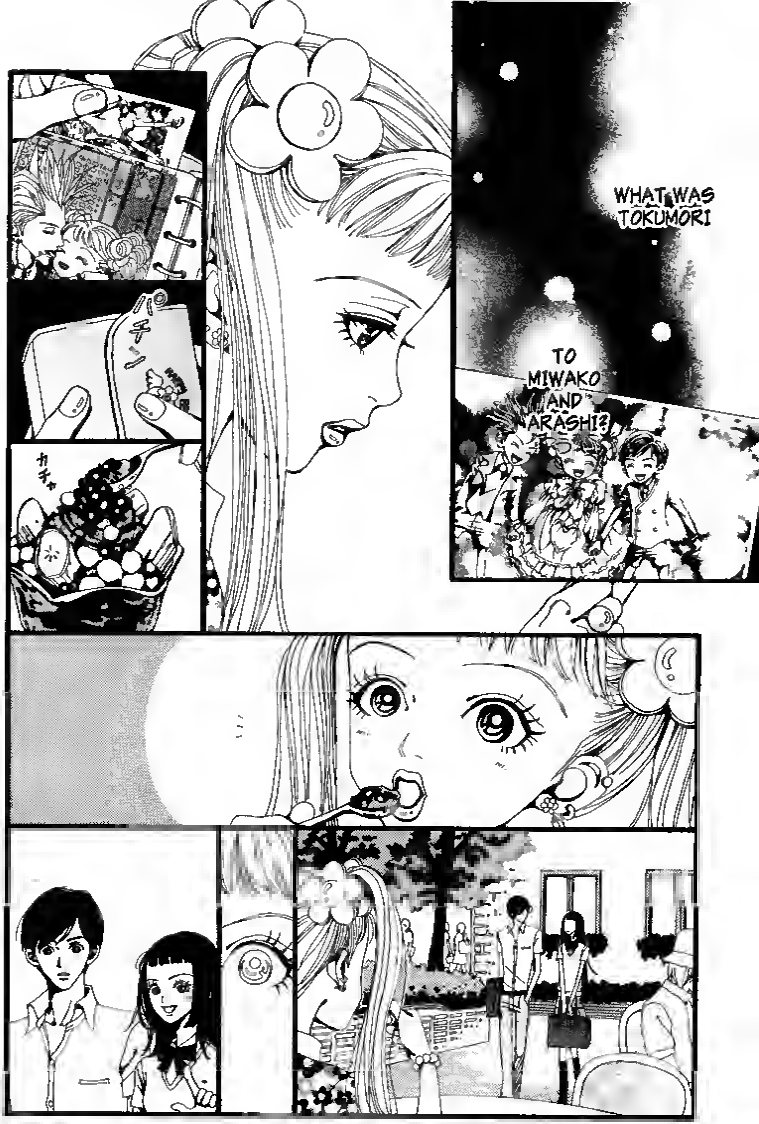
...IS THAT ALL THERE IS?

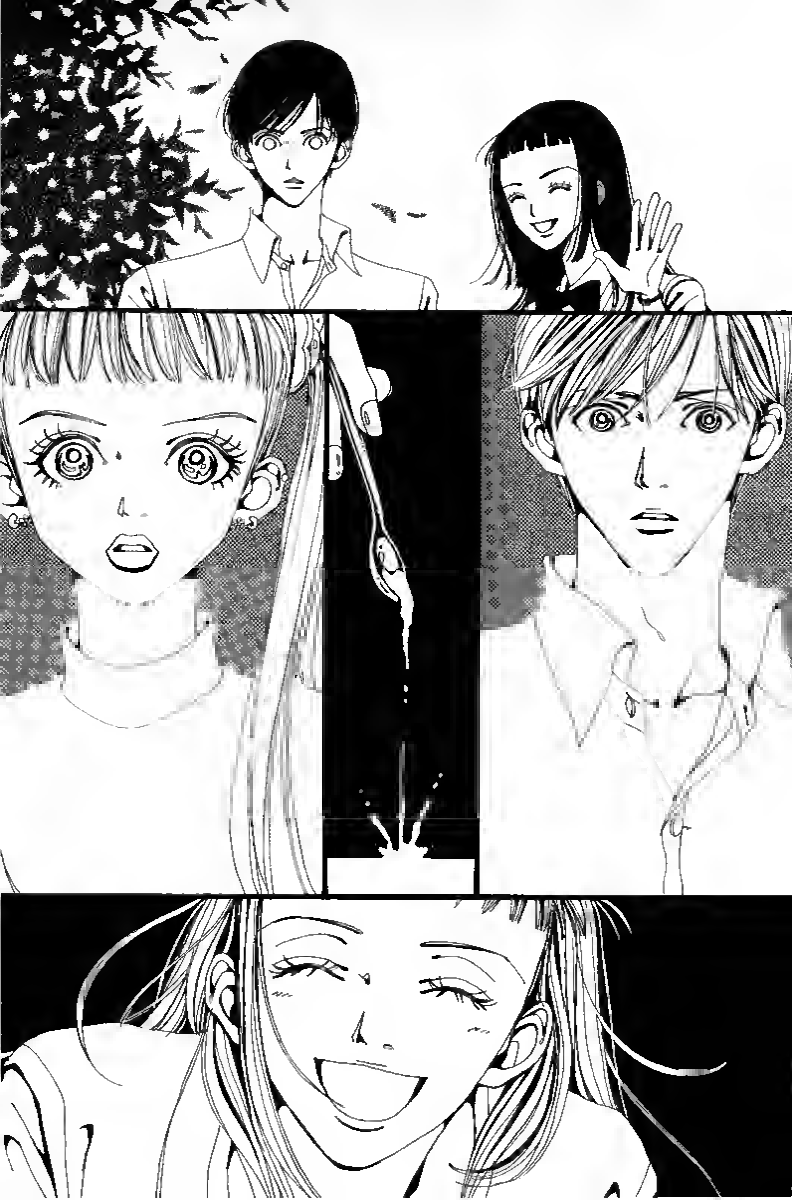
YOU THINK ABOUT THAT TOO, TOKUMORI?

I TRY NOT TO THINK ABOUT IT TOO MUCH.

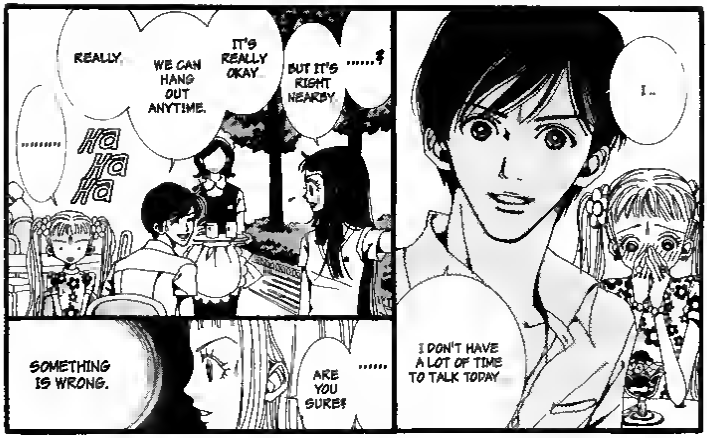
BUT SOMETIMES I CAN'T HELP IT

I LIKE STUDYING, SO IT MAKES SENSE FOR ME TO GO TO COLLEGE.
YOU LIKE STUDYING?!
?!
IT'S AN EASY SENSE OF ACCOMPLISH-MENT.
YOUR GRADES REFLECT HOW MUCH WORK YOU PUT INTO IT
There's nothing you can't understand. Exams are kind of a like a game in a way
A GAMER
MAYBE YOU'RE JUST SMART TO BEGIN WITH, TOKUMORI.
THAT'S NOT TRUE.
I'M A BOOKWORM.
A BOOK-WORM?
YES
THEY'D DRAW ME LIKE THIS IN THE COMICS
Aha ha ha!
BUT OTHER THAN THAT, NOTHING GOES THE WAY I WANT IT TO.
IN MY EYES, TOKUMORI SEEMS SO PERFECT...
...BUT HE HAS THE SAME DOUBTS AND FEARS I HAVE.
I KIND OF FELT RELIEVED, AND I KIND OF FELT A TWINGE OF... OF WHAT?
WHAT WOULD MIWAKO AND ARASHI SAY IF THEY HEARD HIM TALK LIKE THIS?
OPEN

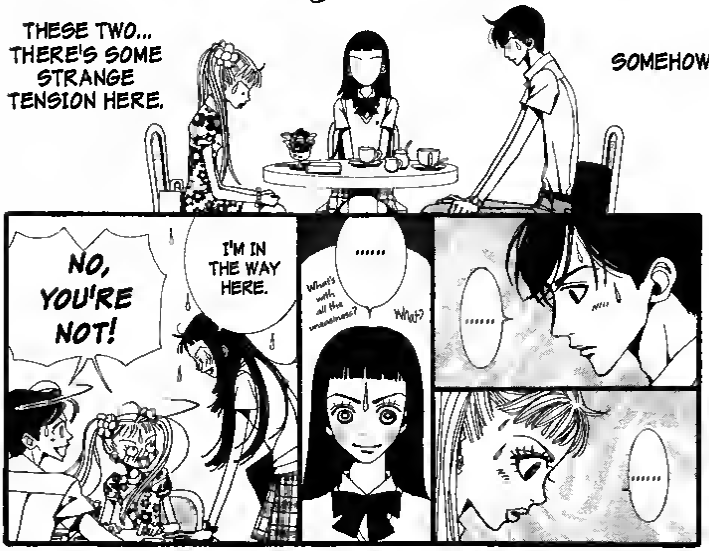

WHAT WAS TOKUMORI
TO MIWAKO AND ARASHI?



SURPRISE, MIWAKO! WERE YOU WAITING LONG?
LOOK WHO I BROUGHT! HIRO!
DIDN'T HE COME?
MIWAKO, WHERE'S ARASHI?
すとん
I'M SORRY FOR TRICKING YOU
HAVE A SEAT, TOKUMORI!
WAIT, HAYASAKA! DON'T CALL HIM!
I'LL GO CALL HIM.
THEN MAYBE HE'S AT THE STUDIO!
MIWAKO DIDN'T INVITE HIM PROPERLY
OH. SORRY... ARASHI IS...


REALLY.
WE CAN HANG OUT ANYTIME.
IT'S REALLY OKAY.
BUT IT'S RIGHT NEARBY.
.....?
.....
Ha Ha Ha
I...
SOMETHING IS WRONG.
ARE YOU SURE?
.....
I DON'T HAVE A LOT OF TIME TO TALK TODAY.

Silence


THESE TWO... THERE'S SOME STRANGE TENSION HERE.
SOMEHOW...
NO, YOU'RE NOT!
I'M IN THE WAY HERE.
.....
What's with all the uneasiness?
What?
.....
.....
.....

I'M SURPRISED
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE FRIENDS WITH MIWAKO, HAYASAKA.
How did you meet?
I WAS SURPRISED, TOO
I DIDN'T KNOW YOU GREW UP WITH MIWAKO...
I JUST MET MIWAKO RECENTLY, BUT I'LL TELL YOU ALL ABOUT THAT LATER
SINCE THIS IS THE FIRST TIME YOU'VE SEEN EACH OTHER IN A WHILE, YOU SHOULD TAKE SOME TIME TO CATCH UP
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, CAROLINE?
IT'S ALRIGHT.
I WON'T TELL ARASHI. ♡
BLUSH
THERE HAS TO BE SOMETHING BETWEEN THOSE TWO!
IT MAKES SENSE...
...WHEN YOU THINK ABOUT IT.
TWO BOYS AND ONE GIRL GROWING UP TOGETHER.
AND MIWAKO'S SUCH A DARLING, EVEN A GIRL LIKE ME WANTS TO HUG HER.

IT'S ONLY NATURAL THERE WOULD BE GUYS FALLING ALL OVER HER!
IT LOOKS LIKE MIWAKO AND ARASHI ARE IN LOVE NOW
BUT I WONDER IF ARASHI AND TOKUMORI FOUGHT OVER HER BACK THEN
Miwako is mine!
No, she's mine!
AND THEN THE DUEL.
Miwako loves both of you!
stop it you two!
ARASHI WINS
BULLETS ARE MORE LETHAL THAN SWORDS.
Don't die, Hiro!
Be happy, Miwako
EVEN THOUGH TOKUMORI LET GO OF HER, HE STILL HAS FEELINGS FOR HER
NOTHING GOES THE WAY I WANT IT TO
IF THAT'S THE CASE, I FEEL SO SORRY FOR TOKUMORI!
AHH, I WISH I COULD COMFORT HIM
.....

TOKUMORI IS PRETTY POPULAR AT SCHOOL.
I DO FEEL ENVY.
THIS DOESN'T FEEL LIKE JEALOUSY
!
I SHOULDN'T ENJOY THIS WHAT IF IT'S FOR REAL?
I'M BEING WAY TOO AMUSED BY THIS
IN ANY CASE, WHY AM I NOT EVEN BOTHERED THAT THE GUY I LIKE HAS A THING FOR SOMEONE ELSE.
HE'S MY IDOL.
PUTTING HIS PICTURE IN MY STUDENT PASS-BOOK.
AND WATCHING HIM FROM AFAR WAS ENOUGH FOR ME.
I THOUGHT THAT WAS LOVE, BUT...
'AY! YUKARI?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE S'POSED T'BE WITH MIWAKO?

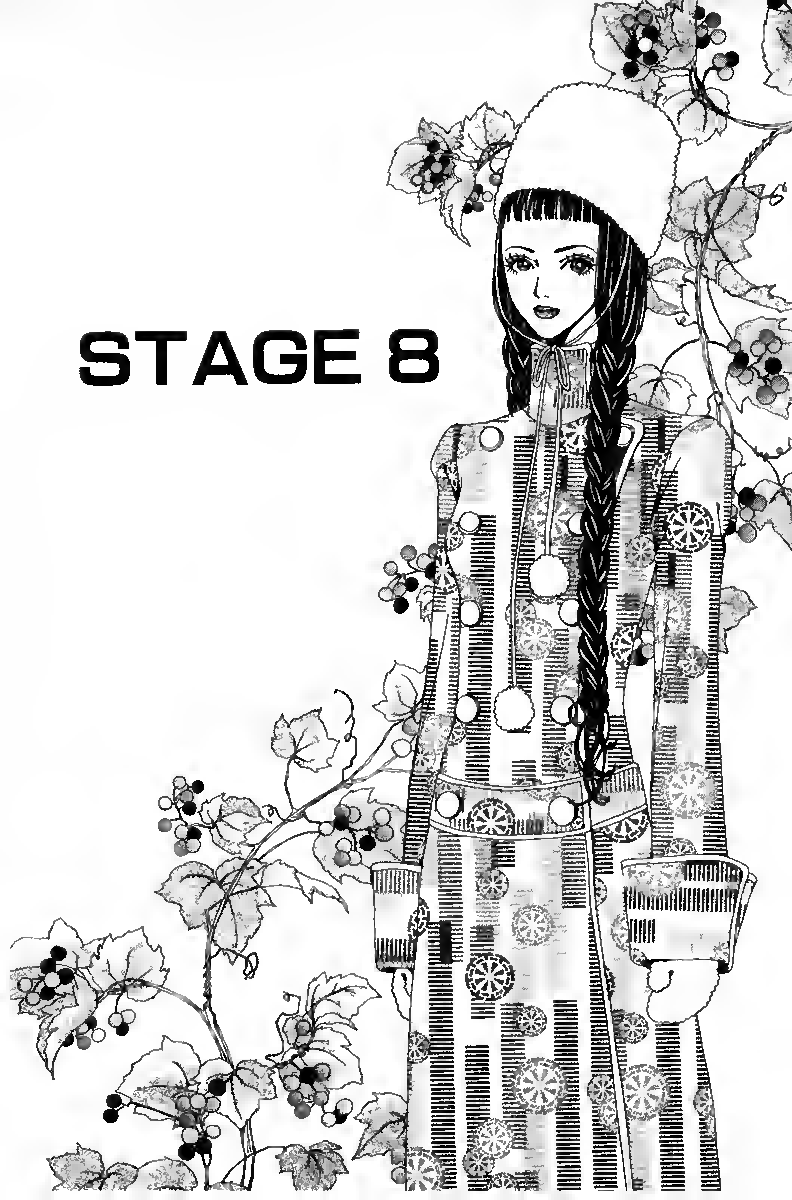
OH...
MIWAKO SUDDENLY REMEMBERED SOMETHING SHE HAD TO DO!
tmp
tmp
tmp
WHERE ARE YOU GOING, ARASHI?
ARASHI...
WHAT AM I DOING, COMING TO THE STUDIO?!
OH, NO!!
AFTER I TOLD MIWAKO I WOULDN'T TELL ARASHI.
IT LOOKS LIKE Y'HAVE SOME FREE TIME AFTER ALL
YOU'LL HAVE TO SEE US AT THE CLUB SOMETIME ♡
TO BAND PRACTICE
WILL HE EVEN CARE?
NO, I KNOW WHAT HE'LL THINK.
I WONDER IF GEORGE IS THERE.
I WANT TO TELL HIM ABOUT TOKUMORI.
ALL THESE LIES HAVE TIRED ME OUT
Suddenly I'm feeling bad
SORRY, ARASHI.

...I HAVE TO CLEAR UP THIS MISUNDERSTANDING!
IN ANY CASE..
LET'S GO, YUKARI!
THAT'S WHAT HE'LL BE THINKING
SHE'S FALLEN IN LOVE WITH ME
Ah-hah!
WHAT IF I HAVE FALLEN IN LOVE WITH HIM!
BUT..
WHY DOES IT HAVE TO BE WITH SUCH A STRANGE GUY?
ゴーン
HMM? SORRY
?

WHY ARE YOU IGNORING ME?!
JEALOUSY, I GUESS
I'M HURT, AND WOULD LIKE TO BE ALONE.
GEORGE!
UM...
たん
たん
たん
.....
YOU'RE JEALOUS!
YOU KNOW...
I'M FEELING DAMAGED FROM THE SIGHT OF YOU HAPPILY WALKING ALONG WITH ANOTHER GUY

WHY...
...ARE YOU ASKING ME THAT?
DO YOU THINK I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU?
MAYBE...
...AN UNEXPECTED SPRINGTIME BLOOMED.
AT THE END OF MY EIGHTEENTH SUMMER...

STAGE 8



MIWAKO
YOUR ICE CREAM'S GOING TO MELT
...
OH, RIGHT
.....
BUT I'M GLAD I CAME. YOU LOOK GOOD
I THINK ABOUT YOU A LOT

YOUR FAMILY COMES TO OUR STORE OFTEN.
WELL, I MEAN, I HEAR ABOUT YOU A LOT, BUT YOU KNOW IT'S NOT THE SAME TIME.
THEY WERE SAYING HOW YOU AND ARASHI MIGHT GET MARRIED ONE OF THESE DAYS
SO, YOU'RE GETTING ALONG WELL?
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT
IT'S BEEN TWO YEARS SINCE THEN
I'VE GOTTEN OVER IT.

...I'LL RESPECT YOUR WISHES.
BUT IF YOU STILL DON'T WANT TO SEE ME, MIWAKO. .
Shiver
I CAN DO THAT.
I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER, THEN.
I HAVE TO GET TO MY PREP SCHOOL.
HOWEVER,
COULD YOU COME TO OUR STORE WITH ARASHI ONCE IN A WHILE?
MOM AND DAD HAVE MISSED YOU SINCE YOU MOVED AND STOPPED COMING BY

HIRO...
GOOD LUCK ON YOUR EXAMS
"I'VE GOTTEN OVER IT."

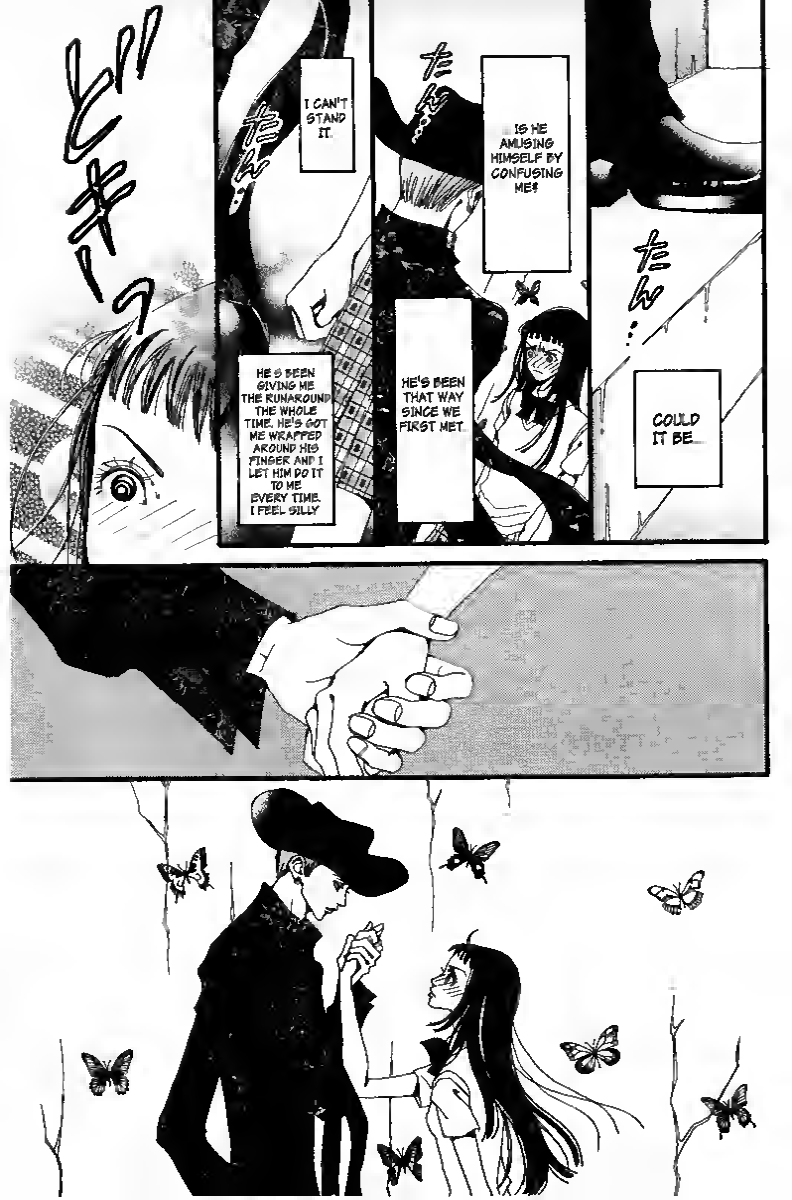
I DON'T WANT TO SEE YOU ANYMORE.
DON'T COME OVER AGAIN!
OPEN
BRRRING!

ピロロッ
ピロロッ
ピロロッ
ピロロッ
ピロロッ

ピロロロ
AREN'T YOU GOING TO ANSWER YOUR CELL PHONE?
ピロロロ
IT MIGHT BE FROM THAT GUY
I WONDER IF I'M IN LOVE WITH YOU.
TOKUMORI DOESN'T KNOW MY CELL PHONE NUMBER!
ピロロロ
THERE WAS A REASON THAT I WAS WALKING WITH HIM.
HE'S JUST A CLASSMATE!
I'M NOT LYING! SO RELAX!
ピ

.....
SO...?
OKAY.
SO?
I BELIEVE YOU.
I JUST DIDN'T WANT YOU TO GET ALL BENT OUT OF SHAPE OVER NOTHING.
WELL...
THAT'S ALL.
AND WHY IS THAT?
.....

BUT...
HEY, IT'S YOUR SHOW.
IT'S UP TO YOU IF YOU WANT TO GET ALONG.
...JUST HOW FRIENDLY
DO YOU WANT TO BE?
SO, WHY DON'T WE BE FRIENDS?
THAT'S RIGHT.
WHY DO I GET THE FEELING...
.....
...THAT HE'S TEASING ME NOW?
HE WOULDN'T BE SO CALM, WOULD HE?



たん…

COULD IT BE...

たん…

IS HE AMUSING HIMSELF BY CONFUSING ME?

HE'S BEEN THAT WAY SINCE WE FIRST MET.

たん…

I CAN'T STAND IT.

HE'S BEEN GIVING ME THE RUNAROUND THE WHOLE TIME. HE'S GOT ME WRAPPED AROUND HIS FINGER AND I LET HIM DO IT TO ME EVERY TIME. I FEEL SILLY

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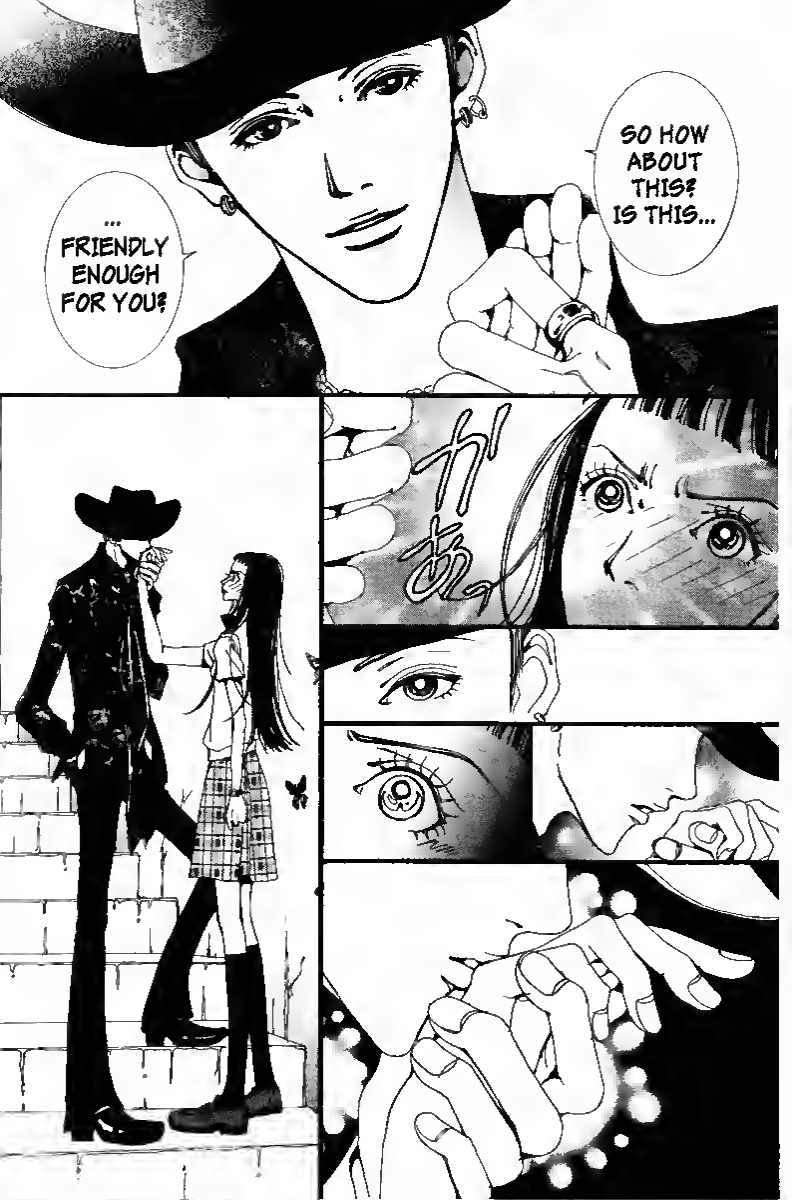

SO HOW ABOUT THIS? IS THIS...
... FRIENDLY ENOUGH FOR YOU?

I'LL MAKE YOU SO IN LOVE WITH ME...
...THAT EVERY TIME OUR LIPS TOUCH, YOU'LL DIE A LITTLE DEATH.
YOU CALL THAT FRIENDLY?
THAT'S NOT NEARLY ENOUGH TO SATISFY ME.
DON'T THINK THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND YOU.

IT'S MY PHONE.
WHOOP'S, TOO BAD.
HOLD ON, THE SIGNAL.
YES?
ISABELLA?
HMM?
HOW CAN YOU ANSWER AT A TIME LIKE THIS?!
GEORGE.
ARE YOU STILL AT THE STUDIO?
I THOUGHT YOU WERE TAKING TOO LONG
WHAT SHOULD I DO WITH YOU?
I JUST TOOK A PEEK IN THAT OLD ANTIQUE SHOP

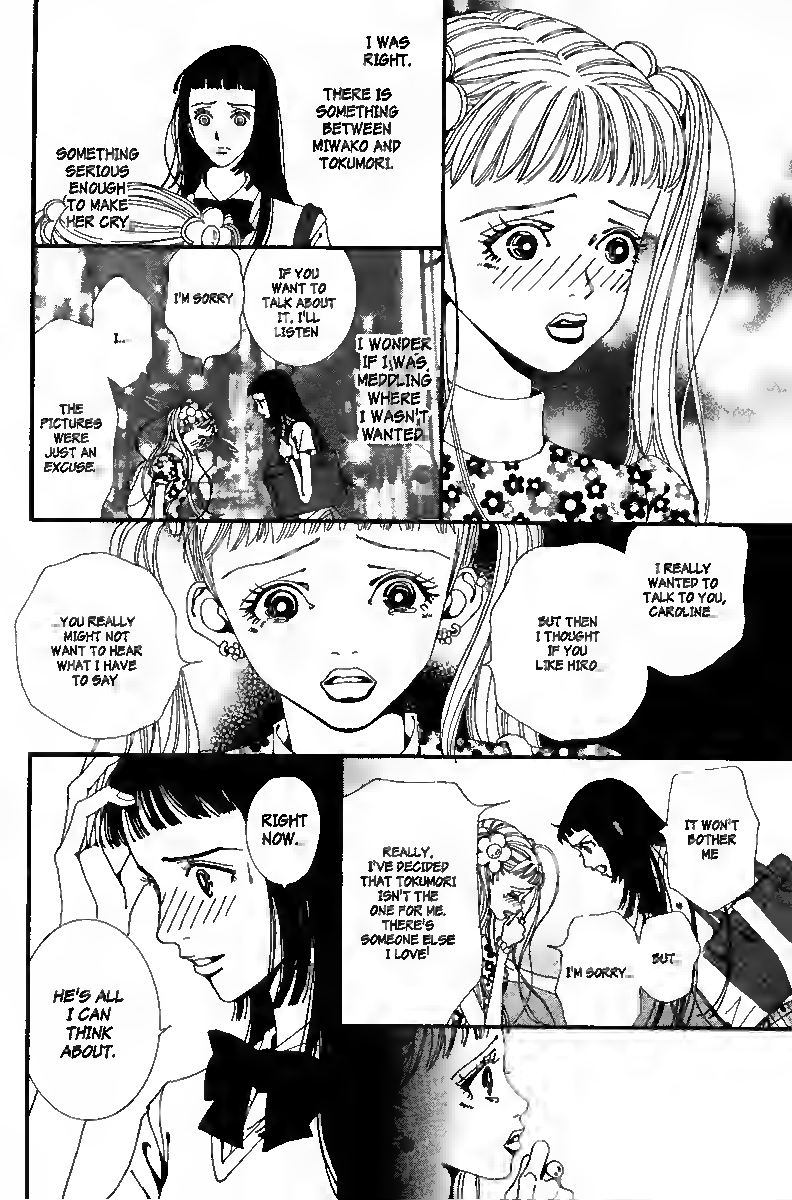
SEE YA.
HOLD ONTO IT
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE
WAIT A MINUTE.
I FOUND THIS SCRUMPTIOUS LACE THAT WOULD BE PERFECT FOR THE SHOW DRESS.
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
YOU WOULDN'T BELIEVE THE ASKING PRICE, THOUGH! IT'S SIMPLY SCANDALOUS!
HOLD ON! WHAT ABOUT ME?!
THEN COME WITH ME IN THE AFTERNOON
WE'LL CONTINUE THIS THEN.
Continue?
ONLY IN THE MORNINGS
What about it?
OH,
YUKARI.
YOU HAVE THIS SATURDAY OFF, DON'T YOU? WHAT ABOUT PREP SCHOOL?

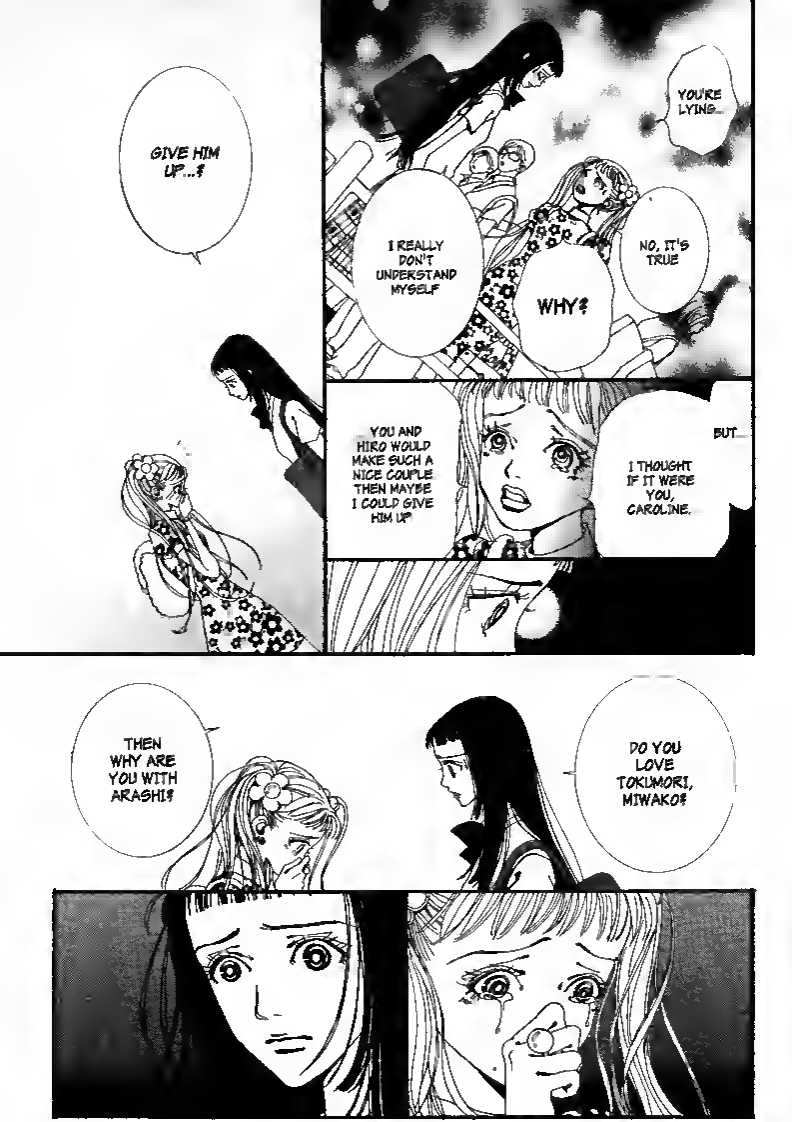
OH, MY GOD!!
JUST BE READY FOR WHAT COMES NEXT
IT'LL BE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE.
...LOOKING LIKE A LITTLE PINK FAIRY...
...MIWAKO WAS STANDING THERE WITH RED EYES...
WHEN I LEFT MY PREP SCHOOL THAT EVENING...

STAGE 9

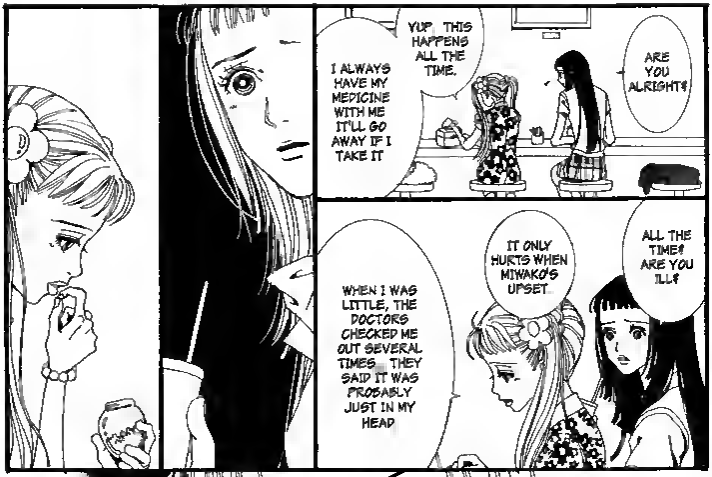
I'M SORRY I WAS WAITING FOR YOU.
MIWAKO! WHAT'S WRONG?!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?
THAT'S ALRIGHT, BUT...
I TRIED TO CALL YOU BEFORE YOUR PREP SCHOOL BEGAN, BUT I COULDN'T GET THROUGH.
THESE ARE PICTURES FROM YOUR WELCOME PARTY
HERE.
I'M SORRY
I WAS IN THE MIDDLE OF SOME-THING AND
OH!
THAT WAS YOU, MIWAKO?!
THAT'S OKAY
I HAD SOMETHING TO GIVE TO YOU TODAY, CAROLINE.
BUT I FORGOT EARLIER.
TSUTOMU DID ALL THE DEVELOPING FOR ME.
TSUTOMU!
THEY'RE FREE. ♡
HOW MUCH DO I OWE YOU?
OH! THAT'S RIGHT! YOU WERE TAKING A LOT OF PICTURES THEN!

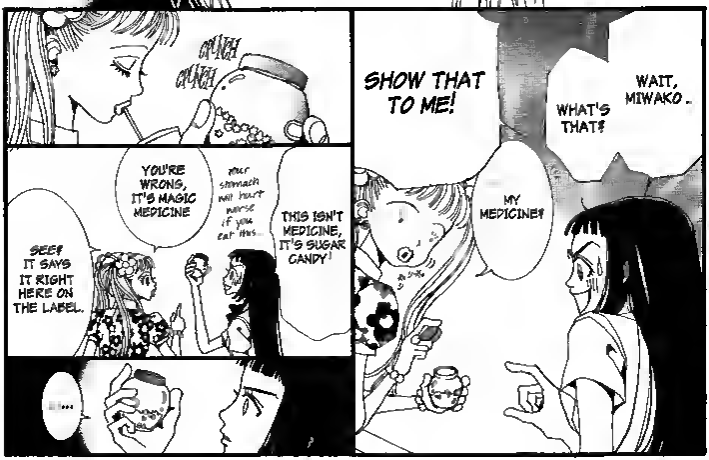
WELL, GOODNIGHT, THEN.
TSUTOMU THOUGHT YOU WERE PRETTY. HE WAS HALF IN LOVE WITH YOU.
HE'S A PHOTOGRAPHER, RIGHT?
OH, YOUR SISTER'S HUSBAND
I see. Thank you
THAT WAS BECAUSE YOU DID MY MAKEUP SO WELL THAT DAY.
BUT YOUR EYES ARE RED AND PUFFY.
I'M SORRY IF I'M INTRUDING
DID SOMETHING HAPPEN WITH TOKUMORI AFTER I LEFT?
DIDN'T YOU HAVE SOMETHING ELSE YOU WANTED TO SAY OR SOMETHING...?
IS THAT ALL?
WAIT, MIWAKO!

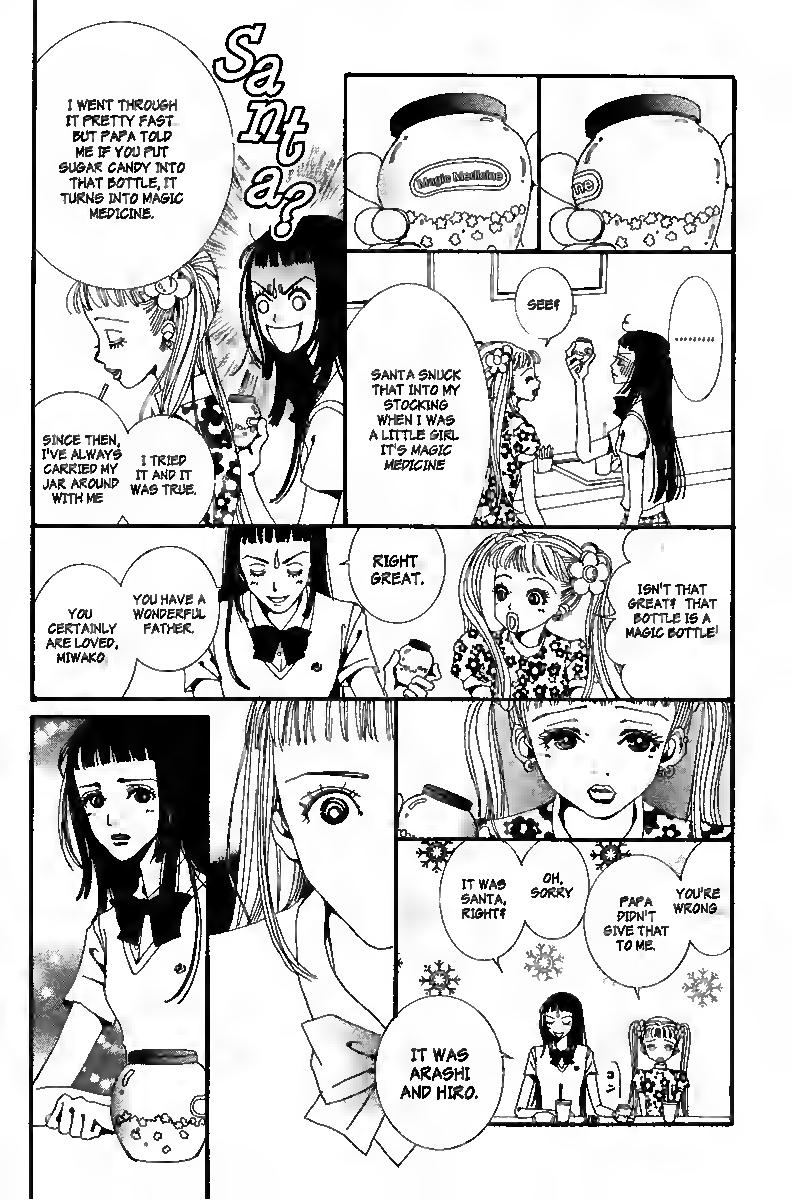

I WAS RIGHT.
THERE IS SOMETHING BETWEEN MIWAKO AND TOKUMORI.
SOMETHING SERIOUS ENOUGH TO MAKE HER CRY
I'M SORRY
IF YOU WANT TO TALK ABOUT IT, I'LL LISTEN
I...
I WONDER IF I WAS MEDDLING WHERE I WASN'T WANTED.
THE PICTURES WERE JUST AN EXCUSE.
I REALLY WANTED TO TALK TO YOU, CAROLINE...
BUT THEN I THOUGHT IF YOU LIKE HIRO...
...YOU REALLY MIGHT NOT WANT TO HEAR WHAT I HAVE TO SAY
IT WON'T BOTHER ME
BUT...
I'M SORRY...
REALLY, I'VE DECIDED THAT TOKUMORI ISN'T THE ONE FOR ME. THERE'S SOMEONE ELSE I LOVE!
RIGHT NOW.
HE'S ALL I CAN THINK ABOUT.


GIVE HIM UP...?
YOU'RE LYING...
NO, IT'S TRUE
I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND MYSELF
WHY?
YOU AND HIRO WOULD MAKE SUCH A NICE COUPLE. THEN MAYBE I COULD GIVE HIM UP.
BUT...
I THOUGHT IF IT WERE YOU, CAROLINE.
THEN WHY ARE YOU WITH ARASHI?
DO YOU LOVE TOKUMORI, MIWAKO?

ハンバーガー
Becker
ANYWAY, LET'S FIND SOMEPLACE WHERE WE CAN SIT DOWN AND TALK.
OKAY?
HERE YOU GO.
COMBO A WITH AN ICED TEA.
コト…
YOU REALLY AREN'T HUNGRY, MIWAKO?
IF YOU WANT, YOU CAN SHARE MY FRENCH FRIES.
BUT MIWAKO'S TUMMY HURTS.
THANK YOU.


I ALWAYS HAVE MY MEDICINE WITH ME IT'LL GO AWAY IF I TAKE IT
YUP. THIS HAPPENS ALL THE TIME.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT?
WHEN I WAS LITTLE, THE DOCTORS CHECKED ME OUT SEVERAL TIMES. THEY SAID IT WAS PROBABLY JUST IN MY HEAD
IT ONLY HURTS WHEN MIWAKO'S UPSET.
ALL THE TIME? ARE YOU ILL?

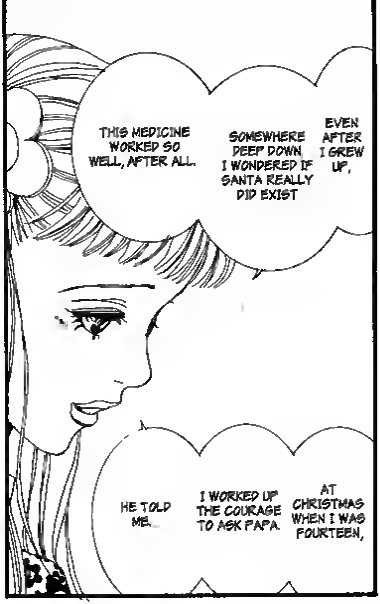

CRUNCH CRUNCH
YOU'RE WRONG, IT'S MAGIC MEDICINE
your stomach will hurt worse if you eat this...
THIS ISN'T MEDICINE, IT'S SUGAR CANDY!
SEE? IT SAYS IT RIGHT HERE ON THE LABEL.
...
SHOW THAT TO ME!
WAIT, MIWAKO..
WHAT'S THAT?
MY MEDICINE?

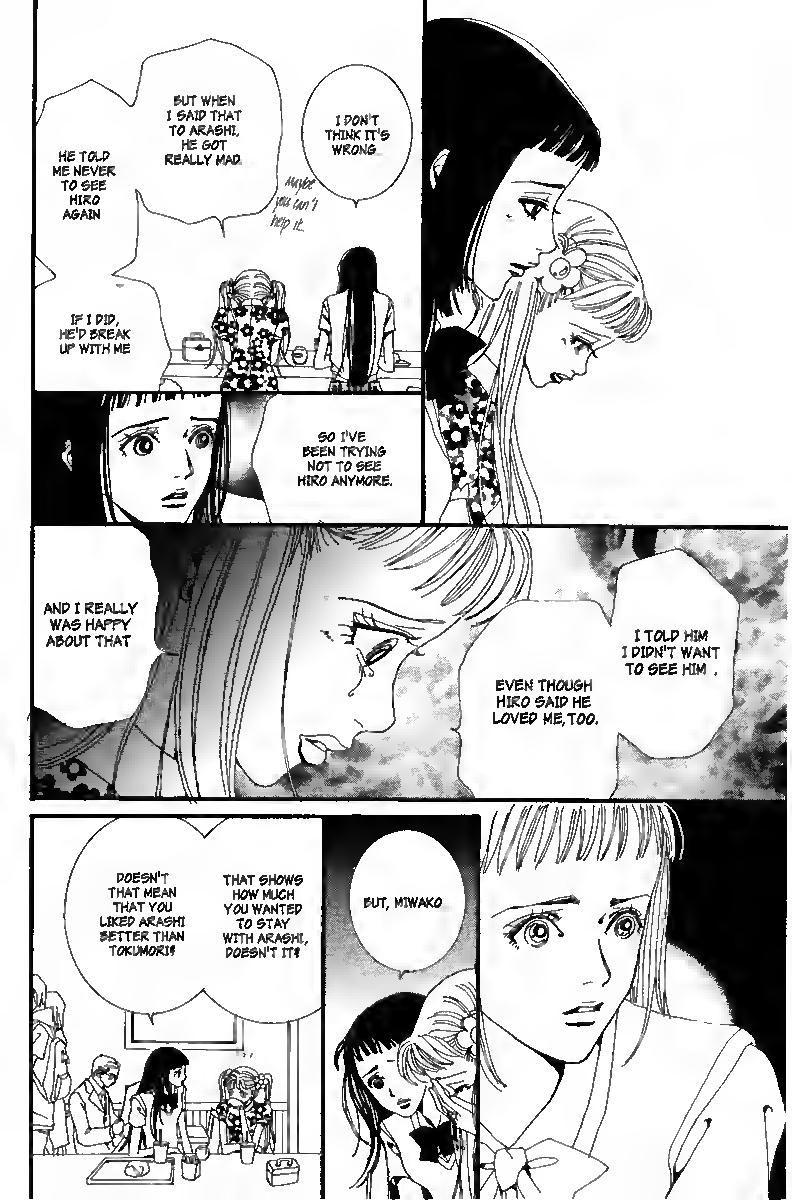

Santa?
I WENT THROUGH IT PRETTY FAST BUT PAPA TOLD ME IF YOU PUT SUGAR CANDY INTO THAT BOTTLE, IT TURNS INTO MAGIC MEDICINE.
SINCE THEN, I'VE ALWAYS CARRIED MY JAR AROUND WITH ME
I TRIED IT AND IT WAS TRUE.
Magic Medicine
SEE?
SANTA SNUCK THAT INTO MY STOCKING WHEN I WAS A LITTLE GIRL. IT'S MAGIC MEDICINE
.....
YOU CERTAINLY ARE LOVED, MIWAKO
YOU HAVE A WONDERFUL FATHER.
RIGHT GREAT.
ISN'T THAT GREAT? THAT BOTTLE IS A MAGIC BOTTLE!
IT WAS SANTA, RIGHT?
OH, SORRY
PAPA DIDN'T GIVE THAT TO ME.
YOU'RE WRONG
IT WAS ARASHI AND HIRO.

MIWAKO...

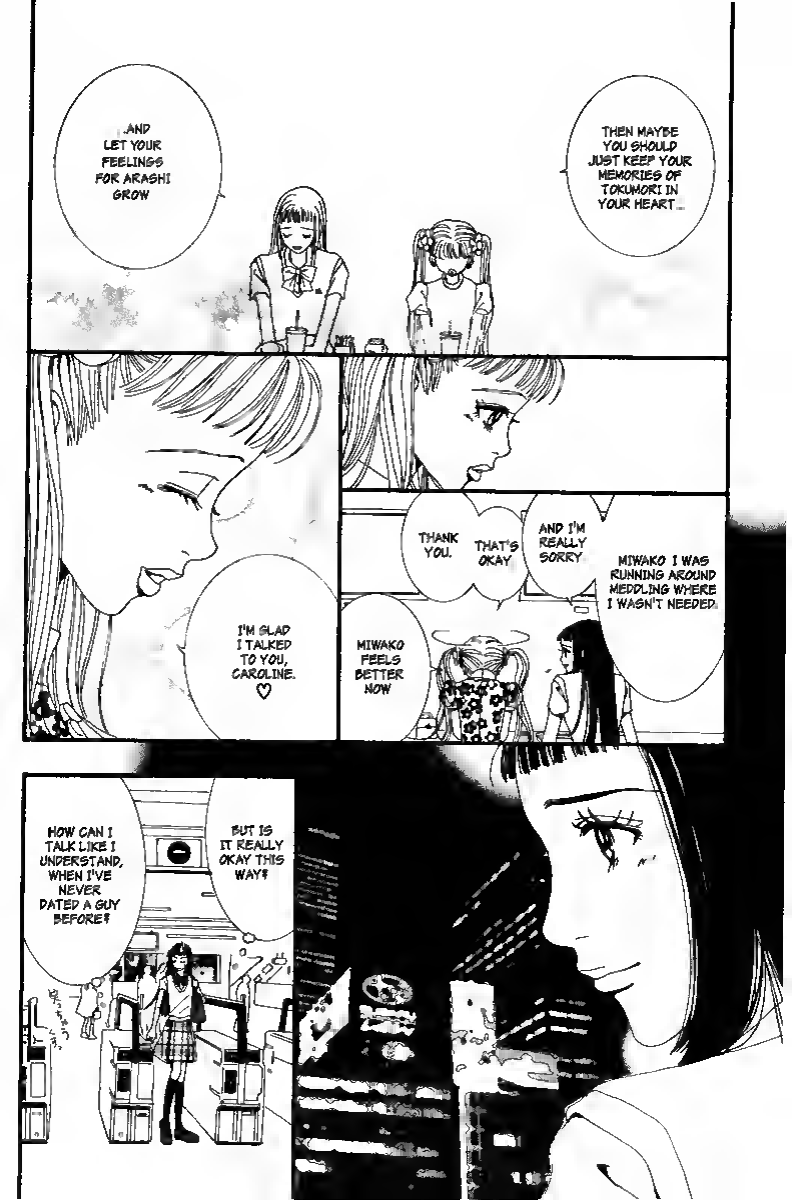
THAT BOTTLE IS FULL OF LOVE FROM ARASHI AND HIROYUKI

YOU SHOULD TREASURE IT ALWAYS.




HE TOLD ME NEVER TO SEE HIRO AGAIN
BUT WHEN I SAID THAT TO ARASHI, HE GOT REALLY MAD.
I DON'T THINK IT'S WRONG...
Maybe you can't help it.
IF I DID, HE'D BREAK UP WITH ME
SO I'VE BEEN TRYING NOT TO SEE HIRO ANYMORE.
AND I REALLY WAS HAPPY ABOUT THAT
I TOLD HIM I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE HIM .
EVEN THOUGH HIRO SAID HE LOVED ME, TOO.
DOESN'T THAT MEAN THAT YOU LIKED ARASHI BETTER THAN TOKUMORI?
THAT SHOWS HOW MUCH YOU WANTED TO STAY WITH ARASHI, DOESN'T IT?
BUT, MIWAKO

I DIDN'T SEE HIM THAT OFTEN.
HIRO LIVES IN A DIFFERENT PLACE NOW AND GOES TO A DIFFERENT SCHOOL.
WELL... I DON'T KNOW, BUT...
REALLY?
They're your feelings
WHY DID YOU DECIDE TO BE WITH ARASHI INSTEAD OF TOKUMORI IN THE FIRST PLACE?
WASN'T IT BECAUSE YOU LIKED ARASHI MORE?
BUT I SEE ARASHI EVERYDAY AT SCHOOL AND WE'RE ALWAYS TOGETHER
DUNNO
CO INCIDENCE ?
That certainly is remarkable
SOMEWHERE ALONG THE WAY WE BECAME LOVERS
THAT WHEN WE WERE ALONE WE STARTED TO MAKE OUT AND STUFF
AND WE WERE AT THAT AGE,
YUP
I'M HAPPY
BUT EVEN IF IT IS JUST COINCIDENCE, YOU'RE HAPPY BEING LOVERS WITH ARASHI, AREN'T YOU?


...AND LET YOUR FEELINGS FOR ARASHI GROW
THEN MAYBE YOU SHOULD JUST KEEP YOUR MEMORIES OF TOKUMORI IN YOUR HEART...
I'M GLAD I TALKED TO YOU, CAROLINE. ♡
THANK YOU.
THAT'S OKAY
AND I'M REALLY SORRY
MIWAKO I WAS RUNNING AROUND MEDDLING WHERE I WASN'T NEEDED.
MIWAKO FEELS BETTER NOW
HOW CAN I TALK LIKE I UNDERSTAND, WHEN I'VE NEVER DATED A GUY BEFORE?
BUT IS IT REALLY OKAY THIS WAY?

JEALOUSY, I GUESS.
I'M FEELING HURT, SO LEAVE ME ALONE.
HE WAS REALLY JEALOUS
HOW COULD HE TELL HER NEVER TO SEE HIM AGAIN?
BUT ARASHI IS ARASHI...
Do all guys get so possessive?
I SUPPOSE THAT SHOWS HOW MUCH HE LIKES MIWAKO...
DO YOU THINK I M IN LOVE WITH YOU?
JUST BE READY FOR WHAT COMES NEXT.
IT'LL BE SOMETHING TO REMEMBER...
WHAT THE HELL HAVE I GOTTEN MYSELF INTO?
.....

I SHOULDN'T HAVE ACTED SO TOUGH.
MAYBE I SHOULD ASK MIWAKO FOR ADVICE.
I HAVE NO CLUE HOW TO RESPOND TO THAT SORT OF THING.
I DON'T MEAN TO PLAY COY, BUT I HAVE PRACTICALLY NO EXPERIENCE.
IN FACT, HE'S RARING TO GO WHERE DOES HE GET THAT CONFIDENCE?
BUT I GET THE FEELING HE'S PLANNING A LOT MORE THAN THAT
I-IF HE JUST INTENDED TO KISS ME, I'D BE OKAY.
NO, I DON'T HAVE THE GUTS TO ASK SOMETHING LIKE THAT
THAT'S NOT NEARLY ENOUGH
TO SATISFY ME.

BE SO CASUAL ABOUT THIS SORT OF THING?
HOW CAN ALL THE COUPLES IN THE WORLD..
SISSY GOT HOME EARLY TODAY. SO MIWAKO DIDN'T HAVE TO BABY-SIT.
NOPE.
WHAT ABOUT ALICE? DID YOU LEAVE HER ALONE?
ARE YOU DOING OUT SO LATE?

NO!
MIWAKO CAME TO CHERISH ARASHI.
HUH?
.....
BUT WHEN MIWAKO GOES HOME IN THE MORNING, TSUTOMU MIGHT BE MAD
MAYBE MIWAKO WILL STAY OVER SINCE IT'S SO LATE.
SO, MIWAKO CAME OVER TO PLAY ♡
Arashi
I GET IT, YOU'VE COME TO CHECK AND SEE IF I'VE GOT A WOMAN IN HERE!
I'M A SEXY GUITARIST, AFTER ALL.
Even "that" thing ♡
TONIGHT, MIWAKO WILL DO ANYTHING THAT MAKES YOU HAPPY ♡
BECAUSE THAT WILL MAKE MIWAKO HAPPY, TOO
WHAT?
DID SOME-THING HAPPEN?
Y'KNOW, ARASHI.

...I TOOK THE MOST IMPORTANT THING IN MY LIFE, THAT PICTURE OF TOKUMORI...
THAT NIGHT...
...OUT OF MY STUDENT PASS-BOOK.
I PUT IT AWAY IN THE BACK OF MY DESK
HOW SHOULD I KNOW?!
I forgot to ask
WHO DO YOU THINK CAROLINE IS IN LOVE WITH?
why do you go off on tangents like that?
...MUST BE A HUNDRED TIMES WORSE.
BUT THE SORROW THAT MIWAKO FEELS.
I FEEL KIND OF SAD ABOUT IT

STAGE 10

SEIEI Academy
TOKUMORI!
HEY.
GOOD MORNING, HAYASAKA.
I'M SORRY ABOUT YESTERDAY!
I...
I DIDN'T KNOW ANYTHING...
I WAS JUST MEDDLING...

.....
OH, BOY...
MIWAKO TOLD YOU EVERYTHING, DIDN'T SHE?
I'M REALLY SORRY...
I WAS SURPRISED BECAUSE IT WAS SO UNEXPECTED, BUT I'M NOT BOTHERED BY IT.
THERE'S NOTHING FOR YOU TO APOLOGIZE ABOUT.
I AM SUCH AN IDIOT!
HUH?
HOW DID YOU KNOW...
ABOUT MIWAKO CRYING TO ME...
SO, MIWAKO CAME CRYING TO YOU AFTERWARDS
SORRY. SHE'S ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THAT.

DO YOU KNOW HOW SHE FELT WHEN SHE SAID SHE DIDN'T WANT TO SEE YOU ANYMORE?
DO YOU KNOW THAT SHE WAS CRYING OVER YOU?
THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEANT!
I CAN PRETTY MUCH TELL WHAT SHE'S GOING TO DO
MIWAKO TOLD YOU EVERYTHING, DIDN'T SHE? THAT HAD TO BE IT
HAYASAKA.
OH, NO!
SHE'S WAY DIFFERENT THAN WHAT I THOUGHT SHE WAS
SHE SEEMED MUCH MORE COLLECTED.
Why is she such a spaz?
TO CHANGE INTO SCHOOL SHOES?
DON'T YOU NEED

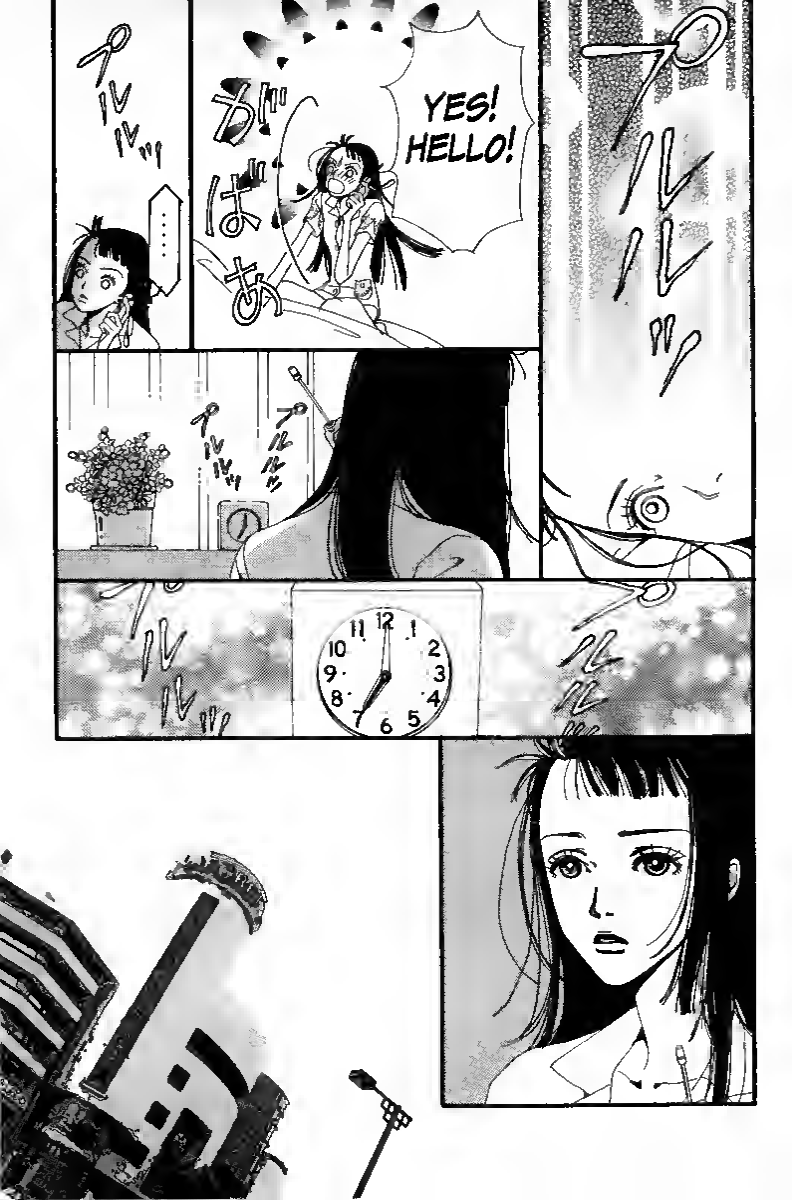
HE KIND OF HAD A COLD SIDE JUST THEN .
OR WAS IT MY IMAGINATION?
YUKARI!
OH!
GOOD MORNING!
THE MORE I TALK TO HIM,
THE MORE I REALIZE TOKUMORI ISN'T THE PERSON I THOUGHT HE WAS
HE HAS DIFFERENT SIDES TO HIM.
AND NOT ALL OF THEM ARE SO NICE
.....
I FEEL LIKE HE DODGED ME.
SATURDAY
IT'S ONE OF OUR PRECIOUS DAYS OFF. WE NEED TO HAVE SOME FUN, TOO
CHIE AND THE OTHERS ARE GOING TO YOKOHAMA. DO YOU WANT TO COME, TOO?
NEXT SATURDAY,
YOU'RE BLUSHING!
IS IT A DATE?
A DATE?!
I HAVE PLANS FOR TOMORROW...
SORRY..
blush
THEN COME MEET ME IN THE AFTERNOON
WE'LL CONTINUE THIS THEN...

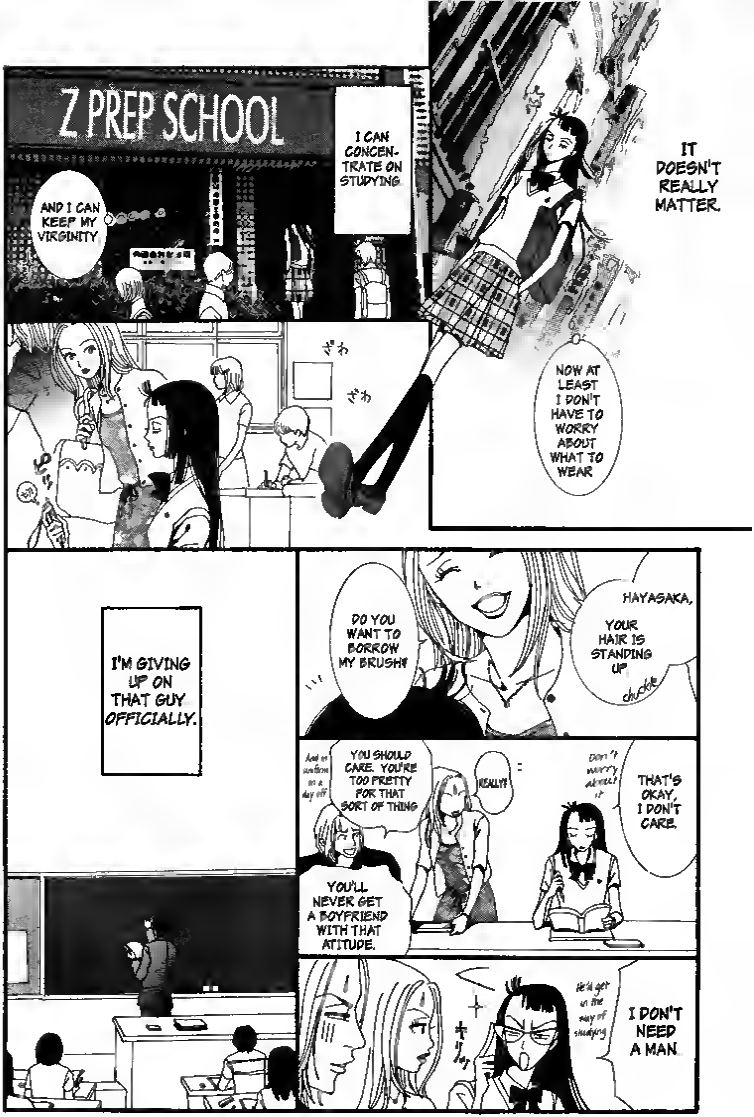
BUT IS THAT WHAT IT IS?
A DATE?
HE WOULDN'T BE TAKING ME TO A HOTEL IN THE MIDDLE OF THE AFTERNOON, AFTER ALL
SHOULD SHE BE DOING THAT NOW?
Not my problem.
FOR A DRIVE.
BUT WHERE ARE WE GOING?
.....
THAT'S NOT THE CASE AT ALL!
OF COURSE NOT! I HAVE PREP SCHOOL!
That's very suspicious
What are you talking about?
.....
WHAT SHOULD I WEAR.?
SO THE KID FINALLY DECIDED TO STUDY?
SHE IS AN EXAM STUDENT
SHE CAN'T BE HERE EVERY DAY
OH, POOP CAROLINE'S NOT COMING TODAY
HE MAY BE STRANGE, BUT HE'S A FUTURE DESIGNER! I CAN'T LOOK BAD BESIDE HIM!
WHAT SHOULD I WEAR?!
You never get bored
HOW AMUSING
カシャ

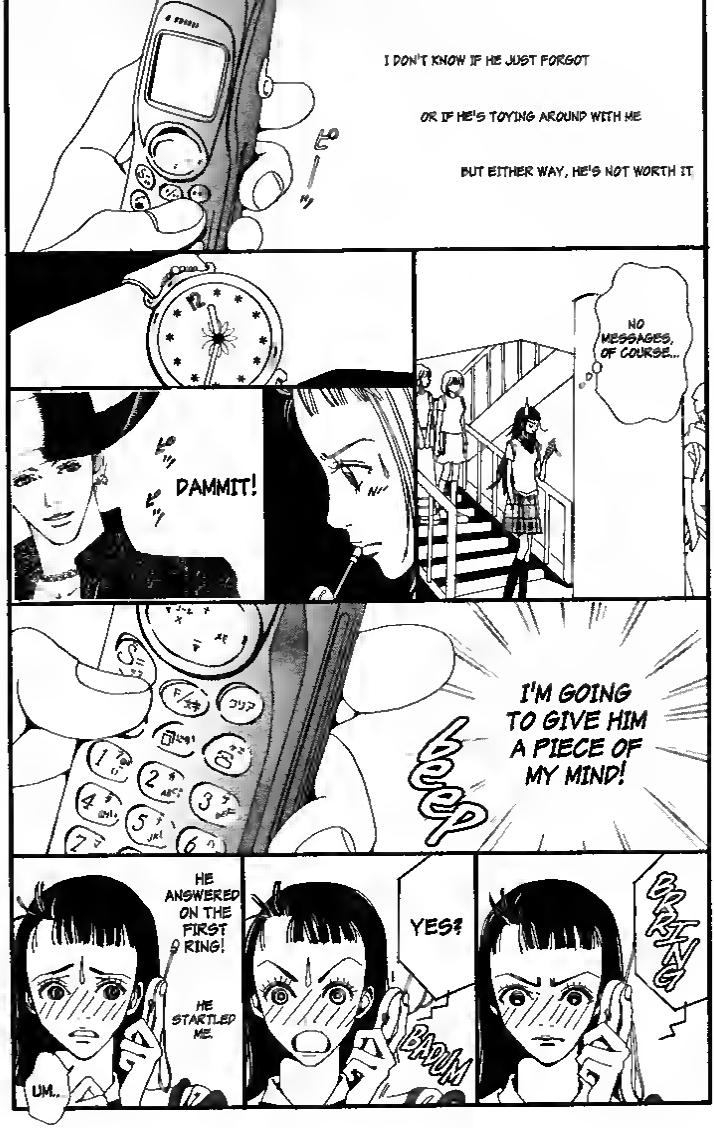
ABOUT MEETING TOMORROW, GEORGE?
OH, RIGHT.
THAT SOUNDS ALRIGHT.
HOW ABOUT 1:00 OVER THERE?

Price
¥ 23.000
OH, NO! I'M LATE!
WHY ARE THEY SO EXPENSIVE?
I DON'T HAVE THAT KIND OF MONEY!
カシャ
WHAT SHOULD I DO?
BUT IF I WEAR SOMETHING CHEAP HE'LL BE ABLE TO TELL...

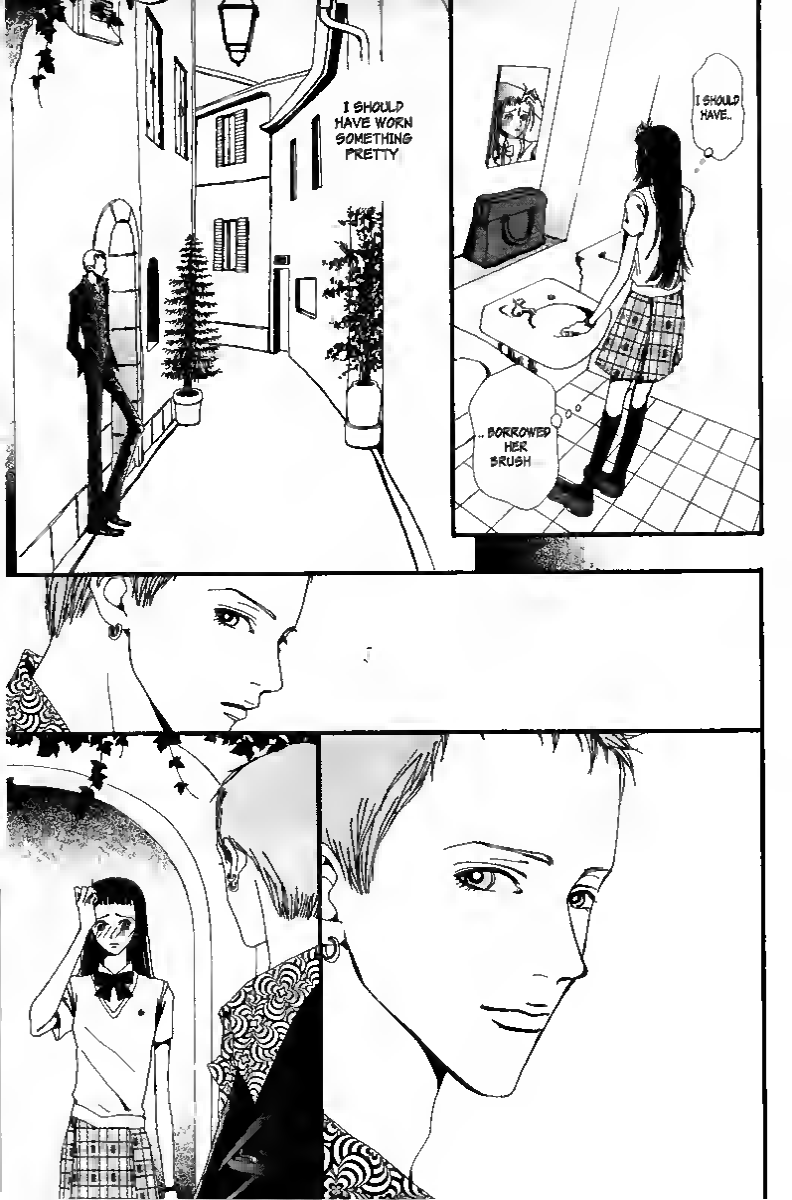
WOULD HE?
HE ASKED ME OUT. HE WOULDN'T FORGET, WOULD HE?
WHAT WILL I DO ABOUT MEETING HIM TOMORROW?
I HAVE PREP SCHOOL IN THE MORNING.
WE HAVE TO TURN OFF OUR CELL PHONES DURING SCHOOL HOURS.
IF HE DOESN'T CALL ME TONIGHT, WE'LL HAVE A PROBLEM.
Z PREP SCHOOL
STILL...
SO HE'S AMUSING HIMSELF BY PRETENDING NOT TO KNOW.
HE KNOWS I'M WAITING FOR HIS CALL.
CALL ME SOON...
SO...
GEORGE...
I'M NOT GOING TO FALL FOR THAT.
I WILL NOT CALL HIM.
IF THE PHONE RINGS, I'LL LET IT GO FOR A BIT THEN ANSWER WITH A CASUAL, "NEED SOMETHING?"
serves you right


YES! HELLO!

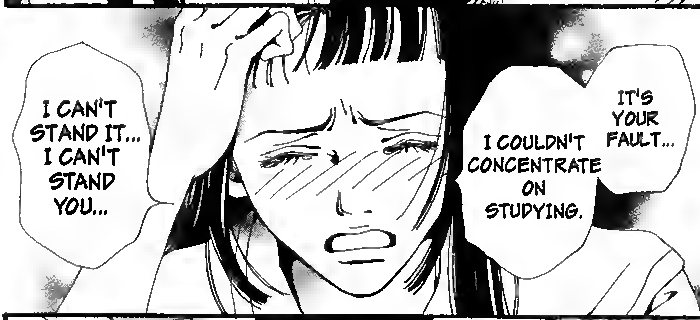

IT DOESN'T REALLY MATTER.
NOW AT LEAST I DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT WHAT TO WEAR
Z PREP SCHOOL
I CAN CONCENTRATE ON STUDYING
AND I CAN KEEP MY VIRGINITY
ざわ
ざわ
HAYASAKA,
YOUR HAIR IS STANDING UP
chuckle
DO YOU WANT TO BORROW MY BRUSH?
THAT'S OKAY, I DON'T CARE.
Don't worry about it
REALLY?
YOU SHOULD CARE. YOU'RE TOO PRETTY FOR THAT SORT OF THING
And in uniform on a day off
YOU'LL NEVER GET A BOYFRIEND WITH THAT ATITUDE.
I'M GIVING UP ON THAT GUY OFFICIALLY.
I DON'T NEED A MAN
He'd get in the way of studying

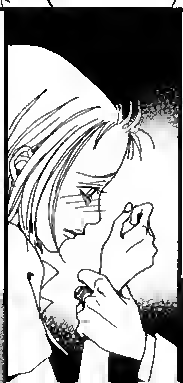

I DON'T KNOW IF HE JUST FORGOT
OR IF HE'S TOYING AROUND WITH ME
BUT EITHER WAY, HE'S NOT WORTH IT
NO MESSAGES, OF COURSE...
DAMMIT!
I'M GOING TO GIVE HIM A PIECE OF MY MIND!
BEEP
HE ANSWERED ON THE FIRST RING!
HE STARTLED ME.
UM..
YES?
BADUM
BRRING

OH! YUKARI!
ARE YOUR CLASSES OVER YET?
YES
THEN GET OVER HERE QUICKLY
GET OVER WHERE?!
I'LL BE WAITING IN FRONT OF THE STUDIO
HOLD ON!
たっ
MY...
MY HAIR!


I SHOULD HAVE WORN SOMETHING PRETTY
I SHOULD HAVE..
..BORROWED HER BRUSH

BUT YOU DID.
ポカ
I THOUGHT YOU WOULD CALL ME.
.....
WHAT WOULD YOU HAVE DONE IF I HADN'T CALLED!
WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME?
YOU...
SOMETHING WRONG?
I WAS WAITING FOR YOU TO CALL!


I CAN'T STAND IT... I CAN'T STAND YOU...
I COULDN'T CONCENTRATE ON STUDYING.
IT'S YOUR FAULT...



IF YOU WANT...
YOU CAN QUIT NOW
WE HAVEN'T STARTED THE DRESS YET.
I WILL QUIT PUSHING YOU ON IT.
BUT AFTER THAT, THERE'S NO BACKING OUT
WHAT DO YOU WANT TO DO?
I... I WON'T STOP

...JUST RANG AND RANG...
THE PHONE IN GEORGE'S POCKET...
EVENTUALLY, THEY GAVE UP
プルルルッ
AND IT SEDUCED ME..
I COULD TASTE HIS COLOGNE...
MY FIRST KISS...
プルルルッ
I HATE GUYS WHO WEAR COLOGNE.
BUT THIS SCENT...
...I WILL LOVE ALWAYS.
TO BE CONTINUED

BONUS STAGE

HELLO, EVERYONE! HOW DID YOU LIKE "PARAKISS'S" FIRST BOOK?

SMILE

THIS COMIC WAS ORIGINALLY PUBLISHED IN THE JAPANESE MAGAZINE "ZIPPER."♡

YOU SHOULD BUY IT EVERY MONTH TO STAY IN STYLE!

AH-AH.

ha ha ha

WHAT A PLACE TO END THE BOOK!

TOO BAD!

SERVES YOU RIGHT!

Take a cold shower!

SO, WHAT ARE THESE BONUS PAGES FOR?

WHAT SHOULD WE DO?

GO ON A PICNIC?

I'll make some rice balls. ♡

THIS STORY IS A CONTINUATION OF THE COMIC "NEIGHBORHOOD STORY." YOU MIGHT ENJOY THAT STORY, TOO! ♡

IS THAT SO?

You can get the anime video in Japan, too!

Didn't know that

GET BACK

WOW

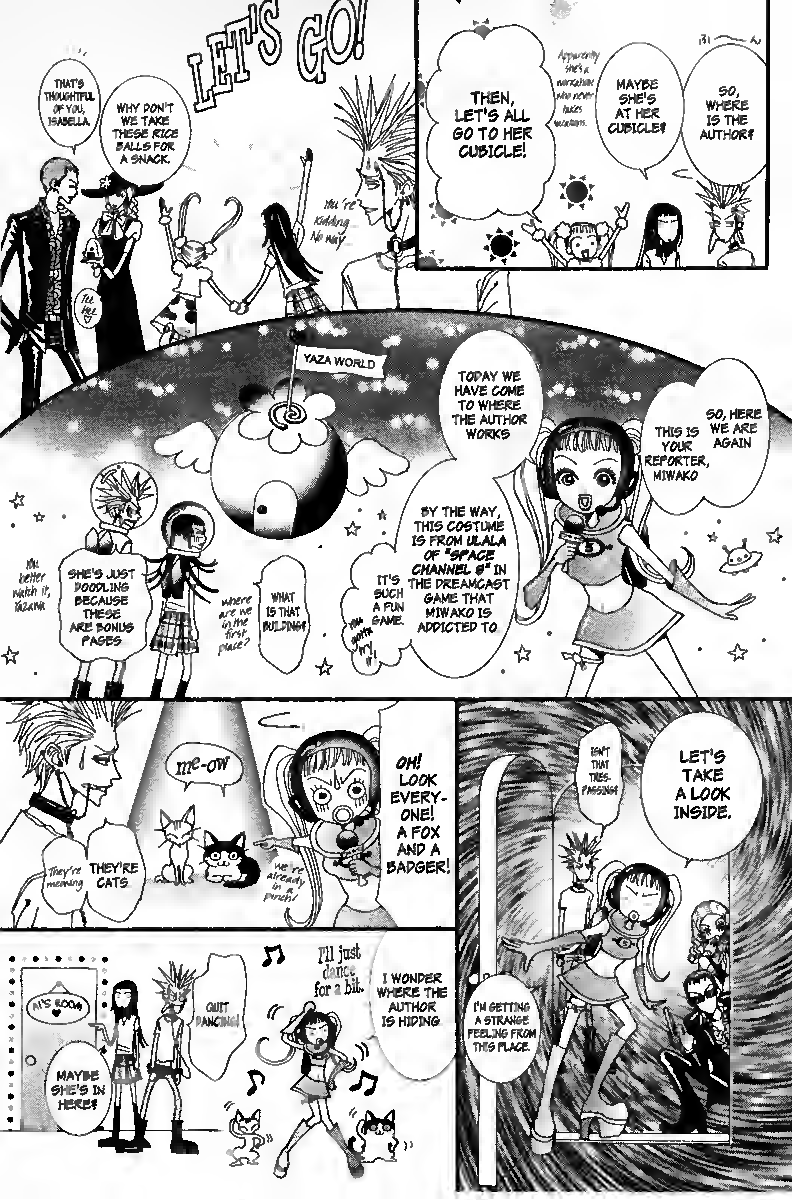
THIS TELLS ABOUT MIWAKO'S CHILDHOOD ♡

Gotta read this

WE CAN'T DO THAT APPARENTLY, YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO REPORT ON THE AUTHOR IN THESE PAGES

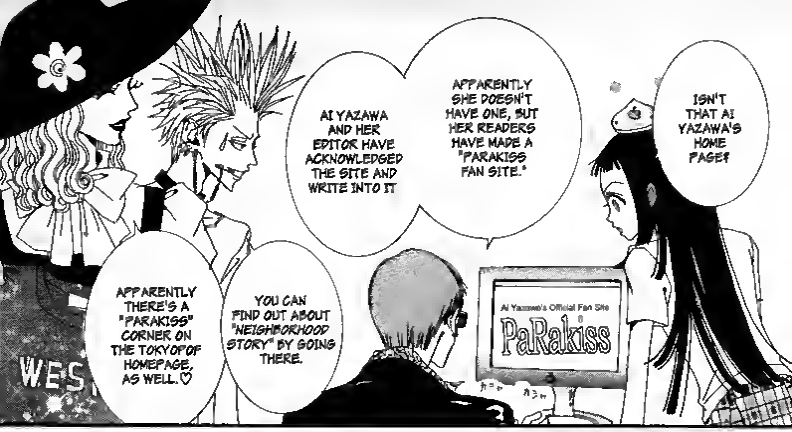
IS THAT SO?

.....



LET'S GO!
THAT'S THOUGHTFUL OF YOU, ISABELLA.
WHY DON'T WE TAKE THESE RICE BALLS FOR A SNACK.
You're kidding. No way.
SO, WHERE IS THE AUTHOR?
MAYBE SHE'S AT HER CUBICLE?
Apparently she's a workaholic who never takes vacations.
THEN, LET'S ALL GO TO HER CUBICLE!
YAZA WORLD
SO, HERE WE ARE AGAIN
THIS IS YOUR REPORTER, MIWAKO
TODAY WE HAVE COME TO WHERE THE AUTHOR WORKS
BY THE WAY, THIS COSTUME IS FROM ULALA OF "SPACE CHANNEL 8" IN THE DREAMCAST GAME THAT MIWAKO IS ADDICTED TO
IT'S SUCH A FUN GAME.
You gotta try it!
WHAT IS THAT BUILDING?
where are we in the first place?
SHE'S JUST DOODLING BECAUSE THESE ARE BONUS PAGES
You better watch it, Yazawa
LET'S TAKE A LOOK INSIDE.
ISN'T THAT TRES-PASSING?
I'M GETTING A STRANGE FEELING FROM THIS PLACE.
OH! LOOK EVERY-ONE! A FOX AND A BADGER!
we're already in a pinch!
me-ow
THEY'RE CATS.
They're meaning
I WONDER WHERE THE AUTHOR IS HIDING
I'll just dance for a bit.
QUIT DANCING!
AI'S ROOM
MAYBE SHE'S IN HERE?

WE'VE FOUND HER!
THAT MUST BE THE AUTHOR!
SHE'S FALLEN ASLEEP ON THE JOB
WHAT A TERRIBLY DIRTY ROOM
How can you make it this messy?
the yellow monkey
HEY! WAKE UP!
You're on!
TRASH!
AH.
I KILLED HER.
OH, WELL.
LET'S GO HOME.
WHAT ARE WE GOING TO DO ABOUT THE REPORT?!
THIS IS THE NEWS ON THE SCENE! MIWAKO, OVER!
WHAT A WASTE OF PAGES.
AS LONG AS WE'RE HERE, SHALL WE TAKE A LOOK AROUND?
MIWAKO WANTS TO LOOK IN HER CLOSET!
OH!
WHEE! ♡
LOTS OF RARE VIVIANS!
yay
whee!
LET'S WRAP THEM UP IN THIS CLOTH.
THAT'S THEFT
THERE ARE MAC'S ALL OVER THIS HOUSE.
Shall I take one home?
WHAT'S THIS?
A compact?

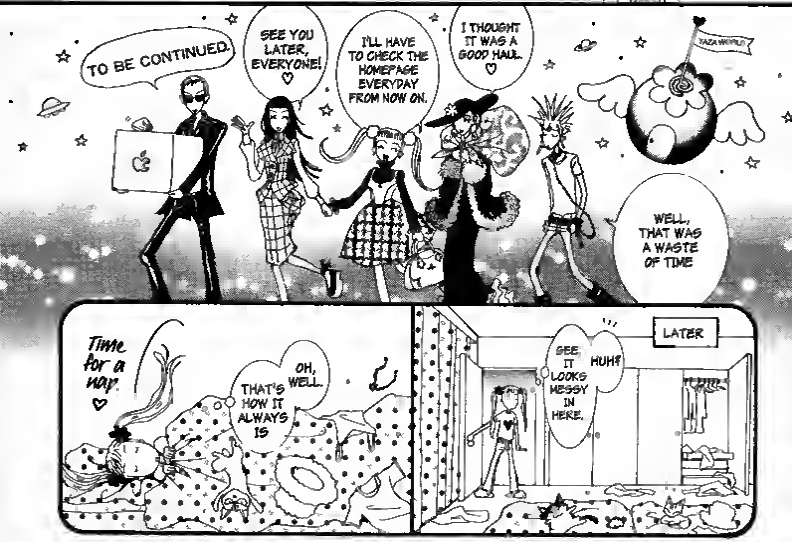


HERE'S THE ADDRESS...♡ PLEASE CHECK IT OUT!

Editor Tanabecchi

☆ "TOKYOPOP" Homepage: http://www.tokyopop.com/manga

☆ "Parakiss Communications": http://www.geocities.co.jp/AnimeComic/7712/



Ai Yazawa

When Punk and Chic Collide

by Steve Diabo

With manga, one tends to expect variety Though it's been said that manga readership among the general population in Japan has been declining in recent years there has never been so many different types of manga to choose from Many new manga series are so innovative and unique that they don't even fit into any certain genre, and for those of us with e taste for variety, a trip to a well-stocked manga shop can cause either an empty wallet or a throbbing headache! It would seem that now more than ever, if there's e scenerio or a situation thet might yield even some remotely interesting results, there's already a manga series covering it

One particular type of manga, however, seems to really be picking up steam among Japan's teenage girls- 'fashion' manga. Typically, these manga series feature normal everyday schoolgirls and their friends in a number of dutiful, humorous, or just plain weird situations, set in a reality that often shares parallels with the reader's own world On the whole, it is not much different than most other teenage manga. But, like the name implies, no matter what 'fashion' manga characters do, they're doing it in style! Hip clothes, color and detail lend to the depth and style of the characters

Enter Ai Yazawa. Although you might not have heard of her until now, shes a manga-ka who really has her finger on the pulse of this bold new world Originally published in the girls' tankoubon *Ribon* her work can best be described as an ongoing experiment in style, offbeat humor and teenage pop culture For almost a decade she has produced a number of stylish, expressive manga series (some of which were adapted into anime TV series and movies) such as *Tenshi Nonka Janai*, *Gokinjo Monogatari* and *Kagen no Tsuki* With her latest work, *Paradise Kiss*, making its North American debut in the pages of this very magazine, she's set to grab a whole new batch of fashion and style junkies with a kung-fu grip.

Like most manga-ka, Ai Yazawa's series all share a common bond In Yazawa-sensei's case, they're all about fashion, friendship, love and wild scenarios, and most of all her knack for bizarre humor is one thing that really sets her work apart from the rest. For instance, *Gokinjo Monogatari* and *Paradise Kiss* feature a school called the Yazawa School of Design, with Yazawa herself playing an eccentric head master, always wearing kooky heart-shaped glasses. In another scene in *Paradise Kiss*, the characters decide to break into Yazawa-sensei's apartment while she's sleeping and steal her clothes

Her first venture into the world of manga, and a truly innovative series et the time, was *Tenshi Nonka Janai* (translation 'I'm Not An Angel'), a story about school romence Launched in *Ribon* in 1992, this series chronicles the lives of e group of teenagers who belong to their school's Student Committee Akira, the Chairman of the committee, is the object of a long-time crush held by Midori, who's just managed to land herself the position of Vice-Chairman. Could this be the opportunity she's been waiting for?

One thing leads to another, and as Akira and Midori grow closer, trouble begins to brew in paradise as Midori learns thet Akira used to like Maki Chan, Midori's art teacher! Meanwhile, Yuko, who's secretly admired

Shuichi for the longest time, learns that Shuichi has eyes for another girl named Shino. What a mess! The highly successful *Tenshi Nanka Janai* ran for 8 chapters in Ribon, was released as 8 graphic novels, and also inspired a movie adaptation

Shortly after the run of *Tenshi Nanka Janai* concluded, Yazawa-sensei came back with an über-stylish new series in 1995 called *Gokinjo Monogatari* (translation 'Neighborhood Stories'). It's in this series that we really begin to see Yazawa-sensei's eye for pop culture and fashion, as the characters and setting are portrayed in a funky, stylized art technique

The story is about Mikako, an energetic and trendy young girl with dreams of becoming a fashion designer. Tsutomu, her long-time friend living next door, starts to become the apple of many a girl's eye because he bears an uncanny resemblance to a popular rock star. As Mikako watches the chaos ensue, she realizes that she's finally beginning to see Tsutomu as a likeable guy and not just the 'boy next door'

Bold artwork, trendy punkish style, loveable characters and off-the-wall situations made *Gokinjo Monogatari* a runaway hit with schoolgirls of all ages. It became so popular that it brought about an anime TV series and a movie, all with the same bold art style and retro-look fashion as the original manga. With *Gokinjo Monogatari*, Yazawa-sensei got her chance to show the manga world what she was made of.

Thanks to Yazawa's newfound success, her next series, *Kagen No Tsuki* (translation 'Quarter Moon'), bounced into the top 10 new manga in the month that it was released, May 1998. In *Kagen No Tsuki*, we're introduced to four young students: Hotaru, Sae, Masaki and Tetsu. Hotaru and Sae are best friends, and as they start the year in their new school, they're delighted to discover that Masaki, whom Hotaru has a crush on, is in their class.

The real story begins one day after school, when Hotaru brings Sae to an abandoned house in order to introduce her to a friend who supposedly lives there. When they arrive, they're shocked to find out that Hotaru's friend is a ghost! Sae makes her escape, while Hotaru eventually decides to re-enter the house. As a very nervous Sae starts to make her way back to the house, she runs into Masaki and Tetsu, his offbeat friend, who decide to go with her. *Kagen No Tsuki* is a complex tale of romance, friendship, and the supernatural

Though she has worked on more projects than just the few above, these series were the ones that left the biggest impression on the manga community. Her newest series, *Paradise Kiss*, takes her formula of fashion and romance to new heights. Currently running as the only manga story in the hipster fashion magazine *Zipper*, *Paradise Kiss* is Yazawa's edgiest and craziest story yet.

It's the story of Yukari (dubbed "Caroline" by her new friends), who is dragged from the doldrums of college prep studies into the exciting world of modelling. Her new fashion designer friends hang out in a New York artist loft-style club called Paradise Kiss where they create their own clothing line. Working for the label are George, the sexy lead designer, Arashi the gutter-punk, Isabella, the transvestite, and Miwako, the pink-haired little sister of Mikako from *Gokinjo*. Yukari thinks she can just flip a switch and become part of the artists' world, but she's about to find out her journey has only just begun

If Japanese teenage girls are at the head of the curve in what's cool in fashion, then Ai Yazawa is the coolest manga-ka around. With a talent for bold style, boundless levels of creativity and a truly off-kilter sense of humor, it looks like the sky's the limit for Yazawa-sensei

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For once there was an unknown land, full of strange flowers and subtle perfumes, a land of which it is joy of all joys to dream, a land where all things are perfect and poisonous.
-Velvet Goldmine

The last thing Yukari wants to do is stand out. So when she met the punk with the piercings and the stately drag queen while walking home from school one day, she wanted nothing to do with them. But curiosity and fate are working against the young preppie as she finds herself drawn deeper and deeper into their high-fashion wonderland of Paradise Kiss. Yukari has just the look that the eccentric fashion troupe wants in their new model, and their mysterious leader, George, always gets what he wants.

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